



## It's the biz for shopping

From quirky one-off shops to marvellous markets

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## There's a Half Moon rising

Its fortune may have waxed and waned, but this theatre lives on

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## Wonder Wharf

Join **Graham Barker** for our wintery walk

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TOWER HAMLETS

# eastendlife

NEWS FROM TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL AND YOUR COMMUNITY

# Mayor launches fair housing plan

BY MICHAEL DIOP

**A GROUP of experts have been brought together**

**by Mayor John Biggs to promote the delivery of genuinely affordable housing in the borough.**

With a chronic shortage of housing, rising rental costs and many low-income residents, Tower Hamlets has become an increasingly expensive place to live. The council aims to deliver genuinely affordable housing

and is doing its best to ensure residents are not 'priced out' of Tower Hamlets.

The Housing Policy and Affordability Commission will be chaired by cabinet member for strategic development Cllr Rachel Blake.

It will meet over the next three months to take evidence from residents, housing providers and experts on what genuinely affordable housing could look like.

Initial research for the panel has found that a household,

comprising two working parents earning an average income, with two children of junior school age, living in a so-called 'affordable rent' home, could spend nearly half their income on housing costs.

As a result, some may have to claim housing benefit to make ends meet.

All meetings will be open to the public and held at the Town Hall in Mulberry Place.

The first takes place at 6pm on Wednesday, December 16.





■ **continued on page 5**

## KING AND QUEEN OF THE DANCEFLOOR



Older residents tripped the light fantastic at this year's festive tea dance. Jazz masters The Sunshine Kings helped party-goers swing into Christmas at the Art Pavillion in Mile End Park. For the full story, see page 3.

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Weekly no more

Next week's East End Life will be our last weekly edition. The paper will be fortnightly from January.



Boosting employment prospects

Providence Row works with homeless people to build their skills and confidence, through its trainee schemes, language classes and employment support.

WWW.PROVIDENCEROW.ORG.UK

News

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The festive season is in full swing across the borough,



SCORES of locals turned up to see the Christmas tree lights being switched on in Wapping on December 1. The council provided the tree and there was music, courtesy of HMS President Sea Cadets band. Cllr Julia Dockerill, who organised the event, said: "This is the second year running we have had a Christmas tree light switch-on. I hope it will continue for many years to come. "It has been a great success again this year and I thank everybody for coming. The sea cadets give great opportunities to young people and I am pleased they were able to make our event extra special."



EastendHomes staff at the Christmas party

Social housing landlord hosts lunch for residents

THE annual Christmas party of a social housing landlord provided fun and food for people of all ages.

Residents from EastendHomes estates visited Southern Grove community centre in Poplar on Wednesday, December 2, where they were treated to Christmas lunch and party

with a surprise visit from Father Christmas. Staff from Fitch Ratings, a financial information services company in Canary Wharf, volunteered for the day. EastendHomes is running more events on Friday, December 18.

For more information or to volunteer, email paul.wilson@eastendhomes.net

Neighbours getting together

COMMUNITY group Neighbours in Poplar will be hosting Christmas parties for children, older people, and isolated or vulnerable members of the community.

Festivities for older residents will take place at Burcham Street Community Centre, 96 Burcham Street, Poplar on Wednesday, December 16; an Irish community gathering takes place at St

Matthias Community Centre, 113 Poplar High Street on Thursday, December 17, from 12-3pm; and there will be a party at the Guild Room, Canton Street, Poplar, on Friday, December 18, from 11am-3pm.

Other events include a Christmas dinner and bingo session at Saltwell Street Centre, Poplar, on Sunday, December 20, from 1-4pm.

The organisation will deliver a cooked

Christmas dinner to isolated residents on Christmas and Boxing Days and will host a children's party at St Matthias on Sunday, December 27 from 3-5pm.

Places must be booked in advance for all activities.

Volunteers are invited to help prepare meals, peel vegetables or deliver dinners.

For more information, call 7987 0257 or email nip65@msn.com

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Mayor launches fair housing plan... 2-5 Years Unemployment Benefit... 4% Commission... 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## Life-saving for Londoners

Proceeds from the London Air Ambulance annual carol service will support the charity, which is based at the Royal London Hospital, and provides life-saving emergency care.

[WWW.LONDONSAIRAMBULANCE.CO.UK](http://WWW.LONDONSAIRAMBULANCE.CO.UK)

## Sharing the spirit

“Christmas is a time for family, a time of joy and giving. Sadly, many people do not have any of these comforts.”

ABDULLAH KHAN

### News

# with dances, parties and a free community dinner Family invites 100 to share Christmas feast

BY JESSICA ODUBAYO

**If you are expecting a big family group for dinner this Christmas, spare a thought for a Bow family planning a feast for 100.**

Seventeen-year-old Abdullah Khan, his sister Zeenat Baig, 26, and a troop of volunteers consisting of family, friends, neighbours, parents at Old Ford School and businesses in and around Old Ford Road, have organised the dinner for people who are homeless, needy or isolated.

Taking place at Francis Lee Community Centre, Hawthorn

Avenue, E3 on Monday, December 21, the event has taken months to plan.

Zeenat and her family, who have lived in the area for more than 20 years, say they want to bring people together and support those in need.

“We just want to do something to make people happy,” she said.

Abdullah told East End Life: “Christmas is a time for family, a time of joy and of giving. Sadly, many people right on our doorstep do not have any of these comforts so we have decided to host this event. It will be a Christmas do, a get-



**We just want to do something to make people happy.”**

Zeenat Baig

together for the people of this community.”

More than 40 volunteers have offered to cook.

Businesses supporting the event include the Roman Road Pound Shop, which donated disposable plates, water and juice, and Al Amin Butchers, Roman Road, which is providing the chicken.

Fundraising cake sales have already taken place and donations are also being collected towards the cost of the day.

Zeenat said any surplus would go to homelessness charity Crisis.

The community Christmas dinner is from 2-5pm and open to all. Just turn up on the day.

To support the event, email [mariabaig@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mariabaig@hotmail.co.uk)

# The sun shines on tea dancers

**OLDER residents danced the afternoon away at the council's annual Christmas concert and tea dance.**

Over-50s got dressed up and enjoyed music, tipples, mince pies and good company at the Arts Pavilion in Mile End Park on Wednesday, December 9.

One resident said: “What a fantastic event. Everyone had fun, even if you couldn’t dance. Thanks for organising it.”

A carer who attended added: “It was such a great experience. More of these activities are needed.

“It’s a lonely life being a carer. This event helps one connect to the community.”

Live music was provided by top London jazz and swing



Dancing to the tune of the Sunshine Kings

band the Sunshine Kings. And while the musicians took a break, dance leader Tony

Lane guided dancers through steps, swirls and classic moves.

Cllr Asma Begum, cabinet member for culture, said: “The Christmas tea dance is much loved by those that attend.

“It’s a great way for older residents to get into the festive spirit by tripping the light fantastic.”



Dance leader Tony Lane puts a dancer through her paces



Enjoying a mince pie and a Christmas tippie

### News in brief

#### Residents celebrate Chanukah festival

CHANUKAH – the Jewish festival of lights – began on Sunday, December 6 and was celebrated for eight days.

Chanukah celebrates the triumph of light over darkness, of purity over contamination, of spirituality over materialism.

At the heart of the festival is the nightly menorah lighting: a single flame on the first night, two on the second evening, and so on till the eighth night, when all eight lights are kindled.

Mayor John Biggs wished all residents celebrating a very happy Chanukah.

#### Air ambulance holds carol service

LONDON’S Air Ambulance will hold its Christmas carol service on Monday, December 14.

The charity, based at the Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel, will fill the historic St Andrew Holborn Church with carols sung by Babington House School Choir and Singology.

The service, from 6pm, will be led by Fr Mark Young. BBC London presenter Asad Ahmad will lead the readings, alongside an ex-patient and lead paramedic Sharon Mortimer.

Tickets, at £25 for adults and £12.50 for under-16s, are available at [londonsairambulance.co.uk/events/christmas-carol-service](http://londonsairambulance.co.uk/events/christmas-carol-service) or call 7220 5492.

#### Mildmay Hospital festive fundraiser

AN evening of carols, readings and solo performances in aid of HIV hospital Mildmay in Bethnal Green, takes place on Thursday, December 17, at Christ Church Spitalfields in Commercial Street.

It will feature guests including Kim Wilde, Linda Robson, Anita Dobson, Darren Day, Richard Arnold, Robert Powell, Diversity Choir, soprano Sally Harrison, Samuel Ford and Brenda Cochrane.

Tickets, for a suggested donation of £12.50, include a glass of wine and mince pies. The evening starts at 7pm.

Call 7613 6311.

#### City Voices sing for Providence Row

PROVIDENCE Row in Spitalfields will host a carol service in aid of homeless and ex-homeless people.

Patron the Duke of Norfolk is due to attend the service on Tuesday, December 15 at The Jesuit Church of the Immaculate Conception Farm Street, 114 Mount Street, Mayfair.

The event, starting at 7pm, will raise much-needed funds and will feature favourite carols as well as music from London City Voices and English Martyrs Catholic Primary School Choir in Aldgate.

There will be readings from service users followed by a champagne and mince pie reception.

Entrance is free.

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## ANNOUNCEMENT FROM SIR JOHN CASS RED COAT SCHOOL

## Ofsted have decided that Sir John Cass Red Coat “is an outstanding school”

We are delighted to share with parents and the Tower Hamlets community some of the outcomes of the recent Ofsted inspection of our school. The report will be published on the Ofsted website on Thursday 10th December 2015. HMI have decided that Sir John Cass Red Coat “is an outstanding school”

By way of preparing a digest, school managers have compiled a list of quotes taken directly from the report under the appropriate headings:

### Summary of key findings for parents and pupils: “This is an outstanding school”

- “The headteacher, supported by the other senior leaders, has driven improvement relentlessly to bring about rapid change. At the same time leaders have ensured that high-quality teaching and outstanding achievement have been sustained.”
- “The governing body knows the school well. It is very supportive but also rigorous in checking and challenging leaders to ensure high quality of welfare and outcomes for pupils.”
- “Personal development, welfare and behaviour are outstanding. Pupils are extremely enthusiastic about their learning, are keen to achieve well and conduct themselves with great maturity.”
- “The curriculum is especially well designed so that pupils learn in pathways that are best suited to their needs.”
- “Pupils’ outstanding outcomes are directly attributable to the outstanding quality of teaching, learning and assessment, and progress tracking.”
- “Teachers plan their lessons exceptionally well so that they build pupils’ secure knowledge and understanding in interesting and varied ways. By the end of Year 11, pupils make outstanding progress in English and mathematics and consistently achieve above national averages. Disadvantaged pupils, those with SEN and the most able all achieve exceptionally well.”

### Effectiveness of leadership and management is outstanding

- “The leadership of safeguarding is exemplary.” “The school is now rightly seen by the LA as a model of good practice”
- “The outstanding curriculum is balanced with strong focus on English and mathematics alongside a broad range of academic and vocational subjects. Pupils are guided to appropriate pathways which ensure equality of opportunity and the best life chances through academic success.”
- “The quality of pupils’ social, moral, spiritual and cultural development is outstanding and at the heart of the school’s work. Learning about other faiths, cultures and fundamental British values is central in helping pupils to have a sense of community and respect for diversity. High expectations of mutual respect and courtesy promote the school’s inclusive values. Daily routines such as the use of classical music to mark lesson times, assemblies and the morning prayers provide shared moments and build a sense of belonging. These aspects, coupled with pupils’ academic achievement and personal development, prepare pupils exceptionally well for life in modern Britain. A parent exemplified this by saying, ‘I am overwhelmed by what the school has done for my child.’” “Teaching, learning and assessment are of the highest quality”

### Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

- “Pupils benefit from high quality and energetic teaching across the curriculum. Teachers’ enthusiasm and commitment for every pupil to succeed is infectious, creating highly positive classroom learning environments. Teachers have high expectations of what pupils can achieve.”
- “Pupils find activities interesting and varied. Resources for teaching are well designed and are used effectively across all lessons supporting effective teaching.”
- “The school has high expectations for the presentation of pupils’ work. Most pupils and teachers rise to this challenge, with books showing high quality work.” Parents are overwhelmingly positive about the quality of teaching and the progress that their children make. Concentration levels are high and pupils work with purpose and determination in lessons.”

### Personal development, behaviour and welfare is outstanding

- “Pupils’ well-being and welfare is at the heart of the school. They thrive in the school’s caring and welcoming ethos where everyone is valued. The school’s exceptional focus on British values and pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is underpinned by developing in them a strong sense of community and belonging.” “They show exemplary tolerance and respect for each other, regardless of faith, background or ability”
- “From the time they join the school, usually in Year 7 or 12, pupils’ aspirations are raised about what they can do and achieve. Throughout their time at the school, pupils are provided with very good advice and guidance through, for example work experience and career days enabling them to find out for themselves about the choices open to them. As a result, almost all pupils become highly ambitious to continue their studies at post-16.”
- “The behaviour of pupils is outstanding. Pupils have outstandingly positive attitudes to learning and their behaviour in lessons, and around school, is exemplary. They show courtesy and respect for the diversity of their peers and staff and act with great maturity.”
- “The ... high expectations for behaviour... are replicated by staff and clearly explained to pupils. Consequently, they understand what is expected of them. They are clear about the sanctions to be taken if these standards are not met, which they view as fair.”
- “Relationships throughout the school are very positive. Older pupils, particularly those in the sixth form, help out younger ones and provide first class role models. “
- “Pupils attend well because they see this as an important ingredient for successful learning. There is rigorous follow up of any whose attendance falls below the school’s high expectations.” “Pupils’ exceptional punctuality to school and lessons reflects their keenness to learn and prepares them well for the world of work”

### Outcomes for pupils are outstanding

- “For several years, the school has consistently ensured that a well above average proportion of pupils gain five or more GCSEs at A\* - C, including English and Mathematics. This was also the case in many other subjects including science and modern foreign languages – both core academic subjects.”
- “The school’s assessment information shows excellent progress rates for most current pupils across Key Stages 3 and 4 over time. Scrutiny of pupils work in a range of subjects also indicates strong and consistent progress rates.” “It also shows higher performance than in 2014 of the most able pupils, with almost all achieving the highest grades”

### 16 to 19 study programmes

- “Academic outcomes improved in 2015 at A level and were above the national average.” “Pupils commented very positively about the variety of activities and how teachers plan lessons to build their knowledge and understanding.”
- “The new and well-designed curriculum pathways are ensuring better success at AS level with the highest results recorded for the school in 2015. This is because pupils are following courses better suited to their needs and starting points.”
- “Pupils make outstanding progress on vocational courses with outcomes well above national averages”
- “Sixth form leaders are determined in their pursuit of excellence. Pupils have a strong sense of community and fellow ship. They develop excellent knowledge and awareness of British values and what it means to be a responsible citizen in modern Britain.”
- “The school leaders’ work ensures sixth form pupils’ safety is excellent. Pupils are given in-depth and regular guidance about how to keep themselves safe online and from extremism. Pupils new to the sixth form are inducted thoroughly and also gain a detailed understanding of how to stay safe and quickly become integrated in to all aspects of school life.” “The high level of care is much appreciated by pupils who recognise the commitment of staff to ensure their safety and success.”
- The advanced level “extended project, which builds independence, research and critical thinking skills, achieved well in 2015 with 18 students of the 20 (90%) securing the highest grades (of A/A\*), 100% gained A\*-B.
- “Pupils in the sixth form benefit from strong academic and personal support and guidance.” “Pupils requiring additional support participate in a highly effective mentoring programme.”
- “Excellent careers advice, the annual higher education fair and guidance and opportunities for work experience at the end of Year 12 help pupils to make choices for when they leave the sixth form.” “Ensuring that almost all pupils proceed into education, employment or training when they leave.”

We apologise for making this a very lengthy press release. It is such a glowing report that many positive comments of a more technical nature have not been included. Parents, staff and governors have worked exceptionally hard for the school for some considerable time. It is fitting that their endeavours are celebrated in this way. It gives both of us great pleasure to wish them many congratulations!

H. Evans  
Headteacher

Rev T. Critchlow  
Chair of Governors



**Sir John Cass**

*Sir John Cass's Foundation & Red Coat CofE  
Secondary School and Sixth Form College*

### Contact details:

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Stepney Way, London E1 0RH

T: 020 7790 6712 E: [info@sjcr.net](mailto:info@sjcr.net) W: [www.sjcr.net](http://www.sjcr.net)



@SJCRschool





## Landlord rethinks notices to leave

East Thames has made special arrangements for vulnerable tenants, or those facing financial hardship and currently in intermediate rented homes, to convert to 'affordable rent'.

SEE BELOW

## Crank up Christmas

There is an action-packed programme of activities for young people over the holidays. For details, visit...

[WWW.TOWERHAMLETS.GOV.UK/YOUTH](http://WWW.TOWERHAMLETS.GOV.UK/YOUTH)

### News

## Mayor's fair housing plan

■ continued from page 1

Sitting alongside Cllr Blake, Mayor John Biggs and cabinet member for housing Cllr Sirajul Islam, will be Yvonne Arrowsmith, chief executive of East Thames Housing Association, Westminster University lecturer Duncan Bowie, barrister Sarah Sackman, representatives from business group London First, developers Barratt London and the Bromley by Bow Centre.

Cllr Blake said: "Affordable housing should always mean affordable.

"The commission brings together experts from across the housing sector and will enable us to have up-to-date information when making important decisions about future development and how we establish rents local people can afford."

Mayor Biggs said: "We face considerable challenges in delivering really affordable homes for local people.

"These include the very high local cost of housing, a chronic shortage of stock and a growing population.

"We welcome the significant regeneration taking place in the borough and the role this plays in transforming Tower Hamlets.

"However, we must not lose sight of the fact that, for increasing numbers of people who grew up in the borough, the possibility of renting or buying a local home has been very difficult."



These shepherds were part of a flock featuring in a nativity play staged nursery and reception class pupils at John Scurr Primary School in Stepney. Look out for a schools' nativity round-up in next week's East End Life.

## 'Affordable' rent deal

BY JESSICA ODUBAYO

**A SOCIAL housing landlord, which wrote to tenants telling them to buy their home or find somewhere else to live, has now agreed to let some stay on and pay affordable rents following an intervention by Mayor John Biggs.**

Housing provider East Thames had told local tenants that they no longer intended to offer 'intermediate rent' and 'rent to buy' products.

Mayor Biggs was very concerned about the matter, met with East Thames chief executive Yvonne Arrowsmith.

Now, in agreement with the council, the landlord has made special arrangements for vulnerable tenants, or those who face serious financial hardship

and are currently in intermediate rented homes.

It will allow them to convert to a tenure called affordable rent, which sets payments at about 65 per cent lower than the local market average.

Mayor Biggs commented: "As a result of our negotiations, I am confident that East Thames has now made a significant change to its original demand.

"However, it remains the case that this was an unwelcome decision for many residents who will now find it difficult to find affordable housing within Tower Hamlets."

The renewed offer does not apply to East Thames residents in 'rent to buy' homes who, after five years, have to switch from rent to shared ownership.

Almost a third of the households have expressed an inter-

est in buying a share of their home. East Thames will waive valuation and reservation fees as a gesture of good will.

## Public can shape plan

**THE public are being asked to contribute to a plan that will form a blueprint for new development.**

The council is asking for ideas about the scale of housing and business developments over the next ten to 15 years, which includes the number of schools planned, new transport infrastructure and the quantity of green spaces in the

borough as part of the Local Plan.

People who live, work or study in Tower Hamlets can shape the Local Plan in the consultation, which opens on Monday, December 14 for eight weeks.

There are a number of ways you can get involved. Pop along to one of the following events:

■ Thursday, January 14, 2016, from 11.30am-2.30pm, Idea Store Chrisp Street, 15

Market Square, E14.

■ Saturday, January 16, 10am-1pm, V&A Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, E2.

■ Thursday, January 21, from 5.30-8.30pm, Alpha Grove Community Centre, Alpha Grove, E14.

Alternatively, visit [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/localplan) or email [planmaking@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:planmaking@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

### News in brief

#### Get active to beat seasonal sloth


THE council has organised an action-packed programme of activities for young people in Tower Hamlets over Christmas and the New Year.

All young people in the borough aged 18-19 (and up to 25 with special educational needs) are entitled to attend the activities, which include go-karting, martial arts, computer coding, CV writing, photography and cinema trips.

Activities take place from Monday, December 21 until Saturday, January 2, 2016.

Full information on what is available, where and when can be found at [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/youth](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/youth)

See next week's East End Life for the full programme.



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## Contact the mayor

To contact the mayor, call his office on 7364 4993 or email him at [mayor@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:mayor@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

[WWW.TOWERHAMLETS.GOV.UK/MAYOR](http://WWW.TOWERHAMLETS.GOV.UK/MAYOR)

## Schools news

# Get involved in decision making

**I AM keen as your mayor to involve you, local residents, in all corners of the borough, in our decisions.**

Giving you a chance to shape the future of our borough is a key feature of the strong community – managing unprecedented change – I want us to be. Here are a few ways this can be helped to happen.

First, we've just started consulting on the Local Plan. This sets out our planning policies, which sounds a bit technical, and it is! But, at its heart, it simply describes how we want our borough to look.

You can register your interest in the process at [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/localplan) and the formal consultation will get under way in the New Year.

At the last cabinet meeting, I approved proposals for a Neighbourhood Planning Forum in Limehouse. Two more were agreed in principle, in Spitalfields and the Isle of Dogs, and should follow shortly, if we can overcome local issues.

These groups will enable residents to help design how their neighbourhood looks and I welcome the commitment and interest people have shown.

And I am drawing up plans for a series of roadshows – where I, as your mayor, can hear what you are concerned about and want to see happen. The



**MAYOR OF TOWER HAMLETS**

first will be in the New Year.

We all want a borough we feel part of – and that means constantly reviewing what we do, and listening too.

Last week we re-opened Bethnal Green library – a stepping stone towards a refresh of our community buildings and services. At a time of serious cuts, we need to manage our budgets but make sure we provide excellent services, like our libraries.

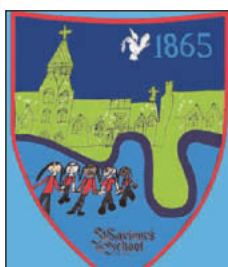
Finally, the council is urging residents to consider what support they can offer refugees.

All political parties in Tower Hamlets have lobbied the government for support to settle refugees while not affecting provision for existing residents.

We've set up a New Residents and Refugee Forum. If you want to donate to groups like Praxis, which supports around 1,200 people, call 7729 7985.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

**Mayor John Biggs**



## Bombed and rebuilt

The original St Saviour's School in Northumbria Road was badly damaged by Nazi bombs in the Blitz. It was knocked down and a new building was erected in Chrisp Street in the 1950s.

# St Saviour's celebrates a century and a half

BY JESSICA ODUBAYO

**STAFF and pupils at St Saviour's primary celebrated the school's 150th anniversary.**

Activities reflected some of the themes that have shaped life in Poplar and beyond since Victorian times.

The original school building, in Northumbria Street, was in the grand Victorian Gothic style and was intended as a beacon of learning and advancement in a notoriously poor area.

Badly damaged by Nazi bombs in the Blitz, the old school was demolished and a new building was erected in



**Cheeky chappies in their caps**

Chrisp Street in the 1950s, 400 metres from the original site.

Princess Margaret, the Queen's late sister, opened the current school in 1969.

As part of celebrations, staff



**A teacher goes all Victorian**

and children dressed in Victorian costume, watched historical films and held a thanksgiving service where guests included Rt Rev Adrian Newman, the Bishop of Stepney,

Inigo Wolf, director of the London Diocese for schools, and Nicola Sylvester, lead for school effectiveness.

Former pupils and a pearly king and queen also came along.



**Pupils in Victorian dress for the the celebration**

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# Oaklands students impress MP

**YEAR 11 students at Oaklands School were encouraged to aim high and follow their dreams during a visit by Rushanara Ali, MP for Bethnal Green and Bow.**

Oaklands head teacher Patrice Canavan OBE welcomed Ms Ali to the school on Thursday, November 26.

She told students about her journey to becoming an MP, and spoke about

some of the obstacles she encountered along the way.

Ms Ali also shared details of her daily parliamentary routine and answered questions from students and teachers about education and the UK's policy on refugees from Syria.

After delivering the assembly, Ms Ali toured the Bethnal Green school with Syed Afsar, director of school and

community development. She said she was impressed with the students' high level of concentration in lessons and their all-round behaviour.

Ms Ali also expressed her delight at this year's GCSE results, in which 82 per cent of students achieved A\* to C grades in five or more subjects including English and maths.

Ms Canavan described the MP as inspiring and a role model for Oaklands students.





## Share your thoughts at Idea Store

The council is holding a public consultation about its 2016/17 school admission arrangements at Idea Store Whitechapel on Thursday, December 17 from 4-6pm.

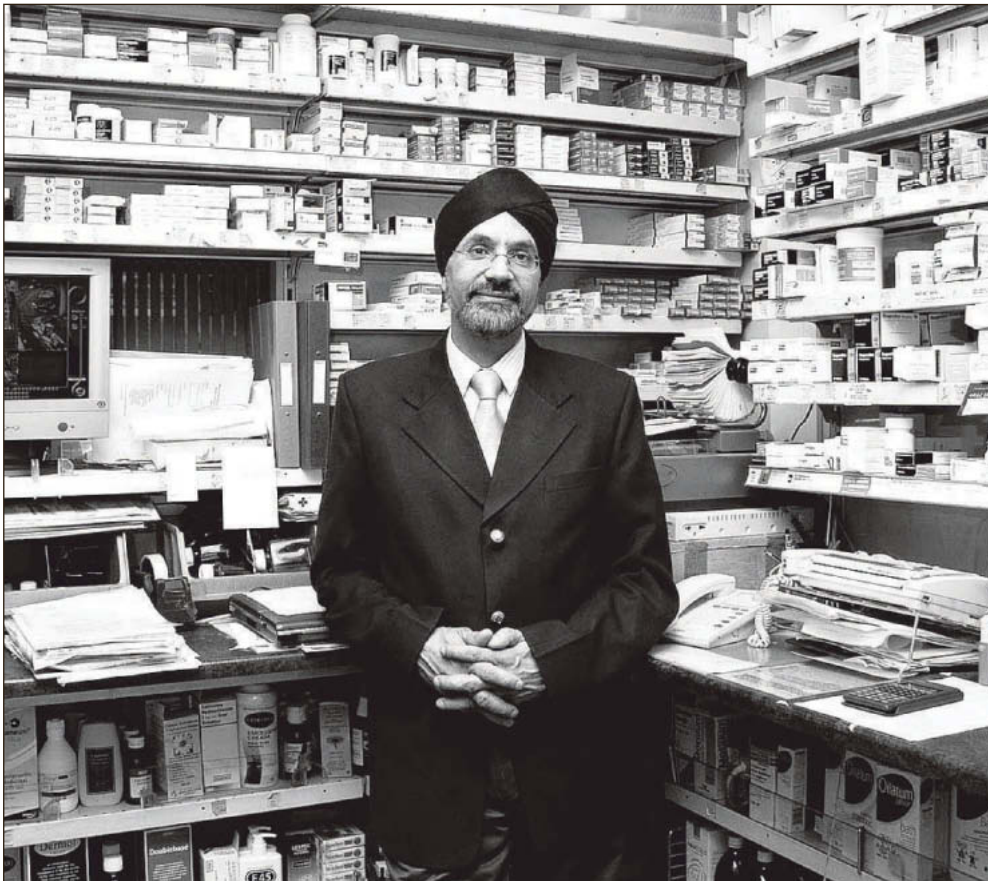
SEE BELOW

## Outstanding service

In 2009, pharmacist Inderpal Birdi received a council civic award for improving local people's quality of life.

SEE BELOW

### News



Inderpal Birdi in the Arms Chemist, Poplar, which he ran for more than three decades

# Pharmacist retires after 33-year stint

BY JESSICA ODUBAYO

**PEOPLE who visit a Poplar chemist will no longer see a familiar face, who has advised customers on remedies for their ailments for more than 30 years.**

Pharmacist Inderpal Birdi of Arms Chemist, Poplar High Street, retired at the end of November after 33 years serving the community, which has been the centre of his life.

Working up to 60 hours a week, Mr Birdi is passionate about pharmacy and improving people's health and wellbeing.

He has tutored more than 40 graduate students to become registered pharmacists – his first is now pharmacist at Al-lens on the Isle of Dogs.

Mr Birdi is an avid supporter of St Joseph's Hospice and regularly participates in its fundraising activities.

Since qualifying in 1981, he

said he has seen the profession become more service-led.

And as he leaves the business behind, Mr Birdi says service users need to support the NHS by being proactive and taking ownership of their health.

"I will miss the daily interaction with my patients and customers but, as I live in the area, no doubt will meet many of them and will be happy to be of any assistance and advice," he told East End Life.

## Road improvement works completed

**SEVERAL major road improvements have been completed by the council and its contractors.**

Works were recently completed at Wentworth Street Market by the public realm engineering service.

The scheme has created a smoother carriageway with improved facilities for pedestrians and a more orderly layout.

Gates have also been installed to enable the market to be closed to traffic.

£632,000 was allocated through Transport for London's (TfL) Local Implementation Plan funding over the past two years.

TfL money was also used for improvements between the A13 and A11 in Aldgate and Whitechapel.

Old Bethnal Green Road has seen improvements to drainage and pedestrian crossings.

The road and pavements have been levelled.

Resurfacing work on Roman Road has also been undertaken.

## Look out for signs of seasonal loneliness

**WITH the Christmas and New Year celebrations approaching, a local health trust is encouraging residents to look after their mental health.**

East London NHS Foundation Trust says holidays can bring stress and loneliness for many people.

While most are enjoying the

festivities of the season, it can be a difficult time for others.

Medical director Dr Kevin Cleary said: "Loneliness and isolation can affect mental wellbeing so it is important to be aware of the signs.

"There are a number of local and national helplines, health professionals and other support services, which can help."

The trust advises those who feel that their mental health is deteriorating to call 3594 3179.

For urgent medical help or advice call 111, or in an emergency 999.

For confidential support and advice, call Lifeline on 0808 808 8000, [www.lifelinehelpline.info](http://www.lifelinehelpline.info) or Samaritans on 08457 909090.

## Have your say on school admissions

**THE council is asking for views on school admission arrangements for 2017/18.**

The aim is to ensure the process is fair and that as many parents as possible secure a place for their child at one of their preferred schools.

The council is holding a consultation event at Idea Store Whitechapel on Thursday, December 17 from 4-6pm so you can have your say in person.

The proposed arrangements for school

admissions for 2017/18 school year can be found at [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgn1/council\\_and\\_democracy/consultations/school\\_admissions\\_consultation.aspx](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgn1/council_and_democracy/consultations/school_admissions_consultation.aspx)

The link leads to an online questionnaire, where you can share your views.

You can also request a paper copy from Jebin Syeda on 7364 2070 or email [jebin.syeda@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:jebin.syeda@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

The consultation ends on December 31.

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## Wander in a winter wonderland

If you'd like to see the daffodils and the hollies, join the Winter Wander on Sunday, December 20 at 2pm. Afterwards, warm up with mulled wine or a non-alcoholic drink and mince pies.

[WWW.FOTHCP.ORG](http://WWW.FOTHCP.ORG)

### Useful information

# Flowers bloom in warm spell

## News from Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

**NOVEMBER was so mild that we had some daffodils of a very early variety in flower by the end of the month.**

Our hollies have a good crop of berries this year and, if you look closely, you'll see that many trees also have a small second flowering now. The main flowering is in May.

If you'd like to see the daffodils and the hollies, and learn more about our history, as well as our wildlife, join us on our free Winter Wander on Sunday, December 20 at 2pm.

We'll be following the route of our new plants and people trail, which goes through a wide variety of meadow and woodland settings and, even at this time of year, there's still plenty to see.

Afterwards we'll warm up with mulled wine or a non-alcoholic drink, and mince pies.

Robins are regulars, but we've also seen woodpeckers frequently lately. The brilliantly coloured green woodpecker doesn't only get its food from the trees, but also by poking into ants' nests to eat the occupants, so we often see it on the ground.

The smaller great spotted woodpecker stays in the trees, but announces its presence by its 'pic' call.

If you live anywhere near the Cemetery Park, Mile End Park or Victoria Park, keep an eye open for woodpeckers.

Our special winter bird is the firecrest, Britain's tiniest bird, with a bright red stripe over its eye.

Small numbers winter in southern England and we usually get a couple, who arrive here in September and leave in March.

Its close relative, the goldcrest, is more common and usually to be found in numbers here.



A festive robin

In the New Year we've got lots of special events, all but one of which is free.

The one for which there is a charge is our Forest School Holiday Club, for children of all ages. This runs over four days of the school half-term in mid-February.

In that same week we have a free family event, planting young trees and wildflowers, from 10.30am-12.30pm, on Wednesday, February 17.

We also have two one-day courses, providing new woodland skills. The first is Know your Native Trees and Shrubs in Winter, on Thursday, January 21. The other, on Thursday, February 25, is Getting to Know Woodland Wildflowers and How to Grow Them.

On Saturday, February 27, from 11am-4pm, we have Hidden Histories, an unmissable event for all the family. This day launches the Friends' project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, to research the 204 names on our war memorial and learn something of their lives.

The programme is still being finalised, but there will be talks, stalls from local history societies and lots for children, including a historical "scavenger hunt" art activity and storytelling.

It'll be a great opportunity for everyone who has information about any of the soldiers or their families to share it, and for us to help those who want to discover more about their own family history.

Find out more by calling 8983 1277, or find us on Facebook and Twitter @FoTHCP and visit our website [www.fothcp.org](http://www.fothcp.org)  
**Terry Lyle, Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park**

## Chemist rota

**Pharmacists in Tower Hamlets with extended opening hours.**

### E1

**ABC Drug Stores**, 12-14 Montague Street: Mon-Fri 9am-7pm, Sat 9am-5.30pm, Sun 10am-2.30pm.

**Beck & Sherman**, 197 Whitechapel Road: Mon-Fri 9am-7pm, Sat 9am-5.30pm, bank holidays 11am-1pm.

**Sainsbury's**, The Albion Brewery: Mon-Fri 8.30am-10pm, Sat 7.30am-10pm, Sun 11am-5pm.

**Chapel**, 139 Cannon Street: Mon-Fri 9am-8pm, Sat 9am-6pm.

### E2

**Fairdale**, 360 Bethnal Green Road: Mon, Tues, Weds, Fri 9am-6.30pm, Thurs 9am-1pm, Sat 9am-6pm, bank holidays 11am-2pm.

**Florida**, 307 Bethnal Green Road: Mon-Fri 9am-7pm, Sat 9am-6pm, bank holidays 11am-2pm.

### E3

**Bell**, 534 Roman Road: Mon-Sat 7am-11pm, Sun 10am-2pm.

**Forward**, 648 Mile End Road:

Mon-Fri 9am-7pm, Sat 9am-6pm, Sun and bank holidays 10am-6pm.

**Green Light**, St Andrew's Health Centre, 2 Hannaford Walk: 8am-8pm, seven days a week, including bank holidays.

**Lincoln**, 60 St Paul's Way: Mon, Tues, Weds 8am-8pm, Thurs, Fri, 8am-8pm, Sat 9am-5pm.

**Tesco**, Hancock Road: Mon 8am-10.30pm, Tues-Fri 6.30am-10.30pm, Sat 6.30am-10pm, Sun 11am-4pm.

### E14

**Boots**, Unit 15, Jubilee Place: Mon-Fri 7am-midnight, Sat

9am-6pm, Sun 12pm-6pm.  
**Britannia (Perimart)**, Asda Precinct, East Ferry Road: Mon-Sat 9am-8pm, Sun 11am-4pm, bank holidays 11am-6pm.

## Doctors

**Please ring your doctor's surgery for an appointment, but if it's the weekend or late at night, call 7377 7151 (only for people in Tower Hamlets who are registered with a doctor). To find a doctor, dentist or help to quit smoking call the health hotline on 7364 5016, Mon-Fri 8am-8pm and Sat 8am-4pm.**

## Advice

### Family Information Service (FIS)

The Family Information Service provides information for people from birth to age 19 including helping parents and carers find high quality childcare, advice on tax credits and childcare vouchers.

Open Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm.  
30 Greatorex Street, E1.  
[fis@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:fis@towerhamlets.gov.uk)  
7364 6495

### Tower Hamlets Home Birth Support Group

Last Thurs of each month, 8pm.  
31 Ridgale Street, E3.  
8981 1159

### Parents Advice Centre (PAC)

Offers impartial advice around special educational needs (SEN).  
30 Greatorex Street, E1. Drop-in sessions every Tues, 9.30am-3.30pm & Fri, 9.30am-3.30pm.  
7364 6489

### LinkAge Plus

Toynbee Hall is one of five network centres that co-ordinates services and activities provided.  
Mon-Fri from 9am-5pm, drop-in session for advice on benefits, pensions, employment and housing. Appointments necessary.  
Mon 9am-5pm, Bangladeshi group.  
Toynbee Hall, Commercial Street, E1.  
7392 2914  
[www.toynbeehall.org.uk](http://www.toynbeehall.org.uk)

## Welfare advice

**All the organisations listed below can help you with welfare benefits, housing and general debt problems.**

### Account 3

1-9 Birkbeck Street, E2.  
7739 7720  
[www.account3.org.uk](http://www.account3.org.uk)

### Bangladesh Youth Movement

21-23 Henriques St, E1.  
7488 1831/2

### Bromley by Bow Centre

St Leonard's Street, E3.  
8709 9737 [www.bbbc.org.uk](http://www.bbbc.org.uk)

### Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)

32 Greatorex Street, E1.  
7247 1050  
[www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk)

### Island Advice Centre

Island House, Roserton Street, Isle of Dogs, E14.  
7987 9379  
[www.island-advice.org.uk](http://www.island-advice.org.uk)

### Legal Advice Centre

University House, 104 Roman Road, E2.  
8980 4205  
[www.legaladvicecentre.org.uk](http://www.legaladvicecentre.org.uk)

### Limehouse Project

Cheadle Hall, Cheadle House,

Copenhagen Place, E14.  
7538 0075  
[www.limehouseproject.org.uk](http://www.limehouseproject.org.uk)

### Praxis (New Residents Service)

Pott Street, E2.  
7729 7985  
[www.praxis.org.uk](http://www.praxis.org.uk)

### The Tower Hamlets Community Advice Network

THCAN is a partnership of local advice centres that provide free advice.  
[www.thcan.org.uk](http://www.thcan.org.uk)

### Tower Hamlets Law Centre

(specialist advice by appointment).  
Tower Hamlets Law Centre, Unit 1, St. Anne's Street, off 789-791 Commercial Road, E14.  
7538 4909  
[www.thlc.co.uk](http://www.thlc.co.uk)

## Debt advice

### Toynbee Hall Advice Service

28 Commercial Street, E1.  
7392 2953  
[advice@toynbeehall.org.uk](mailto:advice@toynbeehall.org.uk)  
[www.toynbeehall.org.uk](http://www.toynbeehall.org.uk)

### Fair Money Advice

530 Commercial Road, E1.  
7702 8032  
[www.fairfinance.org.uk](http://www.fairfinance.org.uk)

### Island Advice Centre

Island House, Roserton Street Isle of Dogs, E14.  
7987 9379  
[www.island-advice.org.uk](http://www.island-advice.org.uk)

### National Debt Line

0808 808 4000  
[www.nationaldebtline.co.uk](http://www.nationaldebtline.co.uk)



## Photo order form

Copies of pictures published in East End Life taken by council photographers are available to readers. To request a copy, email [eastendlife.news@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:eastendlife.news@towerhamlets.gov.uk) and we can send it straight away. If you do not have access to email fill in this form and send it to Photos, East End Life, Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, Poplar, E14 2BG. This service does take longer.

Name .....

Address .....

Issue no. Page no.





## Concealed weapons seized

Tower Hamlets police officers and cadets found weapons including a baseball bat, a lock-knife and a penknife hidden in Mile End Park and stairwells of flats in the Devons Road area.

SEE BELOW

## Planning healthcare

NHS Tower Hamlets CCG is responsible for planning, buying and monitoring a range of local health services.

WWW.TOWERHAMLETSCCG.NHS.UK

## News

### Neighbours make plans

**THE council's cabinet discussed creating three neighbourhood planning forums and areas at its meeting on December 1.**

The scheme would put parts of planning directly in the hands of local communities.

Limehouse, Spitalfields and the Isle of Dogs all submitted applications for neighbourhood planning forums.

The Limehouse forum was given the green light and agreed by the mayor. The Isle of Dogs forum was approved in principle and the Spitalfields was supported by the mayor.

Decision on the applications was deferred to allow clarification on consultation matters.

Cllr Rachel Blake, cabinet member for strategic development, said: "It's brilliant to see residents taking the planning process into their hands – too often people feel unable to influence development."



**VOLUNTEER** police cadets have been called a "credit to the community", after they helped recover drugs and knives during a weapons sweep. Tower Hamlets police officers conducted the sweep on Sunday, November 29. The team found weapons including a baseball bat, a lock-knife and a penknife concealed on stairwells of flats in the Devons Road area and in hedgerows in Mile End Park. They also found iron bars hidden behind a bench and a small quantity of cannabis. The weapons have been taken for forensic analysis.

# Grocer fined over mice infestation

## Droppings were found in boxes of food and on shelves

BY STEFAN SWIFT

**A GROCER has been fined more than £1,500 after council officers discovered an infestation of mice.**

Ahmed's Fruit & Veg on Stepney Way was closed temporarily following a routine inspection carried out in November 2014.

Having established that the establishment was not registered with the food safety system, the council's environmental health team visited the premises.

Officers found large quantities of mouse droppings throughout the shop – in boxes containing food products for sale to the public and on shelves containing

food and cleaning products in the rear of the premises.

Packets of dried fish were found that had been gnawed at by mice and did not carry adequate labelling or traceability information.

Other food products appeared to have been chewed by rodents and evidence of nesting was found in empty egg containers.

Mouse droppings were discovered underneath pallets of food in the greengrocer's storage area.

Officers had no option but to close the shop. The direct contamination of food created an imminent risk to health.

Following a further visit, the premises was allowed to reopen. Subsequent visits have found the hygiene to be satisfactory.

Owner Abdul Malique, 47, of Jarman House, Jubilee Street, Stepney, pleaded guilty to all charges and was ordered to pay a fine of £1,500, prosecution costs of £1,500 and a victim surcharge of £120.

Cllr Ayas Miah, cabinet member for environment, said: "The council takes breaches of food safety very seriously, especially when they are extreme cases such as this."

"We remind all food retailers of the importance of hygiene, and will take enforcement action when retailers are in breach of the law."

If you suspect that a business is breaching food hygiene legislation, call 7364 5008 or email [foodsafety@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:foodsafety@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

### Help shape health policy

**THE local NHS is inviting residents interested in improving health services to join a panel.**

The community commissioning panel will shape policy for NHS Tower Hamlets Clinical Commissioning Group.

The role will involve attending meetings, taking on projects and playing a part in decision making. Starting in spring 2016, meetings will typically take place every four to six weeks and last for up to two hours.

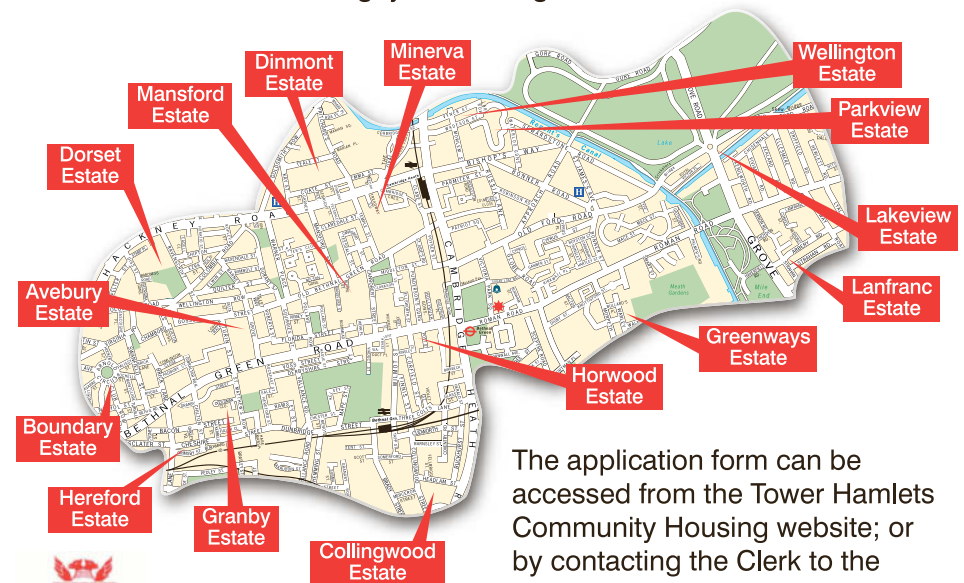
Visit [www.towerhamletsccg.nhs.uk/getinvolved](http://www.towerhamletsccg.nhs.uk/getinvolved) to download the role description and application form, email [info@towerhamletsccg.nhs.uk](mailto:info@towerhamletsccg.nhs.uk) or call 3688 2500.

Deadline for applications is midnight on January 10, 2016.

## Are you a pensioner living in Bethnal Green? Then read on...

**Are you or do you know someone over 60 from Bethnal Green who would benefit from an extra £150 per year, invitations to four social events each year, as well as a trip to the seaside each summer? If so, they should apply to be a pensioner of the Parmiter's Almshouse & Pension Charity.**

We are a charity who can only help people who live in the old "Metropolitan Borough of Bethnal Green", which is more than just the E2 area of Tower Hamlets, as it also includes the Collingwood Estate in E1, and the area of Bow between the Regents Canal and Driffield & Lyal Roads as set out in the map below. Some of the estates are marked on the map for your guidance. Other estates not marked include Cranbrook Estate, Digby Estate, Rogers Estate and Teesdale Estate.



The application form can be accessed from the Tower Hamlets Community Housing website; or by contacting the Clerk to the Trustees, Mr Robin Sorrell at Prenrhwnin, Trefnannau, Meifod, Powys SY22 6XY or email - [rsorrell@sorrells.org.uk](mailto:rsorrell@sorrells.org.uk)

**PARMITER'S ALMSHOUSE & PENSION CHARITY**

**Completed application forms must be returned by 31st December 2015**



# Support local sellers

The council is working with small businesses to encourage people to **#shoptowerhamlets**

SEE BELOW

# The magic of markets

Tower Hamlets is known for its markets, from Brick Lane, Columbia Road and Spitalfields on a Sunday to Roman Road, Whitechapel and Petticoat Lane on weekdays.

WWW.TOWERHAMLETS.GOV.UK

## Small Business Saturday

# Something for everyone on our

BY MICHAEL DIOP

**HOT food, community stalls, musicians, street performers and a children's choir joined traders at Whitechapel Market on December 5 to mark Small Business Saturday.**

While the main event was in Whitechapel, the council is working with small businesses to encourage people to **#shoptowerhamlets** at all of the borough's markets, centres and high streets.

From the historic Columbia Road Flower Market to Brick Lane and Roman Road (which was nominated for Britain's best high street earlier this year), our market

scene is one of London's best known and loved.

The Whitechapel Market event follows the announcement of ambitious plans for the area, including 3,500 new homes over ten years and 5,000 jobs, many of which will be provided by the council's new civic hub at the former Royal London Hospital.

The Whitechapel Vision regeneration scheme has ensured dedicated space for small and local businesses, along with plans to facilitate the growth of London's 'Tech City' in Shoreditch. And the council's Enterprising Whitechapel initiative

will identify currently empty or underused buildings in Whitechapel and bring them back to productive use by providing workspace for small to medium-sized enterprises.

The event took place from 11.30am-4.30pm. Residents and businesses



were encouraged to share the best of local enterprise and tell the council why they **#shoptowerhamlets**

Mayor John Biggs said: "It was great to see a good turnout for the Small Business event on Saturday and people were clearly enjoying

the entertainment laid on too. Whitechapel has such a variety of well-established and new businesses, and this will only get better with the regeneration coming to the area."

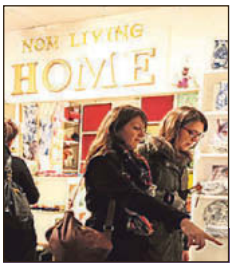
Cllr Joshua Peck, cabinet member for work and economic growth, said: "Small Business Saturday seemed to be a welcome boost for our local shops, with the performers and musicians in Whitechapel adding to the festive atmosphere.

"I'd invite residents to make a commitment to shop locally as much as possible, so our local shops and markets survive and thrive."

Shoppers joined Mayor John Biggs to celebrate Small Business Saturday







## Gifts with the personal touch

Fifty independent boutiques, cafés and restaurants in Columbia Road, Ezra Street and Ravenscroft Street will be open every Wednesday before Christmas, from 5-9pm.

[WWW.COLUMBIAROAD.INFO](http://WWW.COLUMBIAROAD.INFO)

## Why go anywhere else?

"Make a commitment to shop locally as much as possible, making sure our shops and markets survive and thrive."

CLLR JOSHUA PECK, BELOW

### Small Business Saturday

# doorstep



Nick welcomes shoppers looking for quirky gifts in Bahasa

## 'Tis the season to do some shopping

BUSINESSES in Columbia Road are celebrating ten years of Christmas Wednesdays. More than 50 independent boutiques, cafés and restaurants will open from 5-9pm every Wednesday in the run-up to Christmas. Enjoy some mulled wine and carolling around the neighbourhood Christmas tree, while looking for exclusive gifts and supporting the creativity of the East End. Local choirs will be performing and you can pick up a real Christmas tree to hang your baubles on. Christmas Wednesdays take place on December 16 and 23 in Columbia Road, Ezra Street and Ravenscroft Street, Bethnal Green. Visit [www.columbiaroad.info](http://www.columbiaroad.info)



Christmas gifts galore in atmospheric Elsie's Drougerie



Ari arranges the window display in Harry Brand



Rashne in jewellery shop Maia



## Everyday East End

William Whiffin, who today might be known as a street photographer, captured daily life in the East End.

SEE BELOW



## Original features from 1896

The Bethnal Green library building was built in 1896 as the new wing of Bethnal House asylum. It retains many original features including bookshelves, stained glass and gas lamps.

SEE BELOW

### News

# Stunning facelift for library

BY SAM GOUGH

**ONE of the borough's most beautiful libraries has re-opened after extensive refurbishment.**

The grade II listed Bethnal Green library, in Bethnal Green Gardens, off Cambridge Heath Road, has been closed for eight months while it was renovated.

Once part of the Bethnal House asylum, it opened as a library in 1922 and has ornate stained glass, wood panelling and an elaborate corniced ceiling.

The improvements included replacing the building's old heating system, removing asbestos material and light refurbishment and redecoration of the main library.

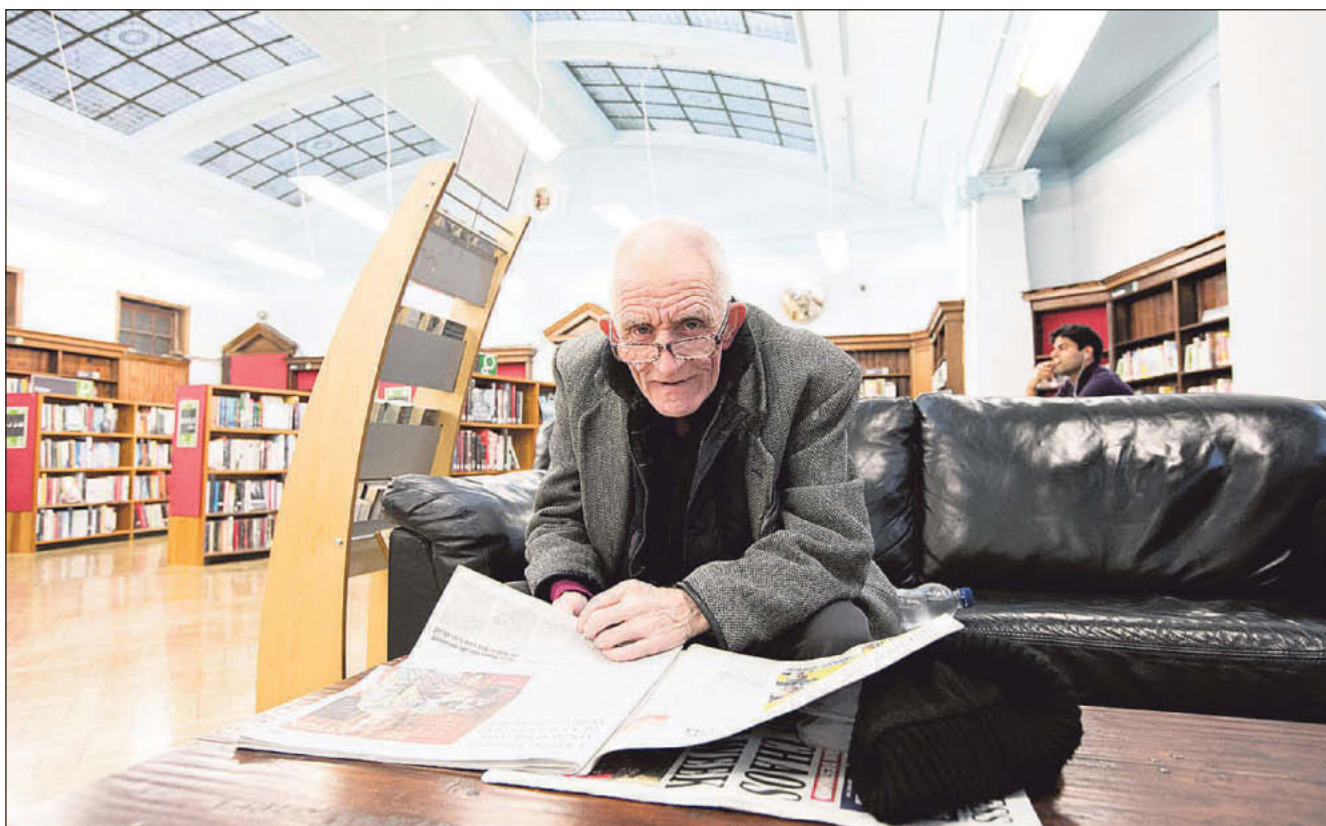
Alongside this, the library will have:

- a brand new Wi-Fi system;
- eight computers for internet access, scanning and printing facilities;
- a new bench for laptop users;
- additional comfortable seating spaces for people using their own devices;
- a new layout – including adult and child fiction sections.

The building was officially opened on Monday, December 7.

Mayor John Biggs said: "Bethnal Green Library is an amazing building.

**Library user Chris Giff catches up on the day's news in the newly refurbished building**



"For almost a century, it has given people the joy of literature and of expanding knowledge. However, it needed to be updated for the 21st century. So I'm really glad to see this opening up for residents to enjoy long into the future."

Cllr Asma Begum, cabinet member for culture, attended the opening.

She said: "This is a stunning building that has been at the heart of the community for so long now. It's great to see it opening its doors again – much to the benefit of our residents."

The opening hours for the library will stay the same as before the temporary closure – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, from 10am to 6pm; Thursday, from 10am to 8pm and Saturday, from 9am to 5pm.

**Cllr Asma Begum joined Shazia Hussain, service head for culture, learning and leisure, and other staff at Bethnal Green library**



Children following water cart, 1919

TOWER Hamlets Local History Library and Archives has produced a set of postcards featuring 12 photographs by William Whiffin, star of its recent exhibition, Whiffin's East End.

Also for sale is a range of reproductions of old maps, priced from £1.95. The earliest dates from 1703 and shows the parish of Stepney, which extended to nearly all of present-day Tower Hamlets. The library is also selling the 2016 Isle of Dogs History Calendar, and a large variety of books and pamphlets on East End history, including some rare and out-of-print titles. The library is at 277 Bancroft Road, between Mile End Hospital and the Queen Mary university campus. It is open on Tuesdays, from 10am-5pm, Wednesdays, from 9am-5pm and Thursdays, from 9am-8pm. It will also be open on Saturday, December 19, from 9am-5pm, but will be closed from Wednesday, December 23 until Saturday, January 2. Visit [www.ideastore.co.uk/local-history-shop-publications-for-sale](http://www.ideastore.co.uk/local-history-shop-publications-for-sale)





## A bright future for youth theatre

The young people's theatre survived, became a charity and, in partnership with the council, bought the old Limehouse Board of Works on White Horse Road, Stepney, and is now flourishing.

LEFT, DIRECTOR AND CEO OF HALF MOON, CHRIS EWELL

## Got a story to tell?

If you have a tale about East End history, write to John Rennie or email him at [johnrennie@gmail.com](mailto:johnrennie@gmail.com)

[WWW.EASTLONDONHISTORY.COM](http://WWW.EASTLONDONHISTORY.COM)

### History

# New Moon rising after the darkness

BY JOHN RENNIE

**FORGET the glittering playhouses of St Martin's Lane and Shaftsbury Avenue... the most exciting London theatrical happenings in the 1960s were taking place in grimier, lesser known parts of London.**

Out in Stratford, Joan Littlewood was encouraging the improvisation of some of the most exciting drama London had seen, while East End playwrights such as Steven Berkoff and Arnold Wesker were consigning Terence Rattigan et al firmly to theatrical history.

And down in a little alleyway, sandwiched between Leman Street and Whitechapel High Street, the Half Moon Theatre Company was born.

The Half Moon, formed in 1972 in a rented synagogue in Alie Street, was named after the nearby Half Moon Passage (a romantic-sounding moniker, but most likely taken from the name of a pub).

This was far from your regular playhouse, comprising the adult theatre company, the Young People's Theatre and the Photography Workshop, with rehearsal space and living accommodation.

Now, a new project is to explore the often turbulent history of the Half Moon, and they're looking for those of us who remember the theatre to record those memories... and you'll be joining a stellar cast.

The driving forces behind the Half Moon were a trio of actors Michael Irving and Maurice Colbourne (a successful TV actor who would later find fame as Tom Howard in the BBC drama *Howard's Way*) and theatre director Guy Sprung.

If the concept was very much a product of the Sixties' idea of an alternative society, then the first productions to emerge were just as far from the Shaftsbury Avenue mainstream.

Bertolt Brecht's *In the Jungle of the Cities* in 1972 was followed by *Will Wat If Not What Will*, a collaborative effort by Sprung, Steve Gooch and the company.

Rumpole of the Bailey creator John Mortimer, writing in *The Observer*, called it "one of the best things in my term as a critic".

Community mattered and, in 1973, the company took part in the E1 Festival, which attracted more local actors and writers and led to the Seventies becoming an optimistic period of growth and expansion.

An acclaimed production of *Henry IV, Part 1* and *2* was reviewed by *The Guardian's* critic Michael Billington in glowing terms. Audiences were growing, but the tiny Alie Street venue seated only 80 people.

So in 1975, as money started to come in



**Above: the Half Moon theatre was formed in 1972 in a rented synagogue in Alie Street**

**Right: Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in *Sink the Belgrano!*, a 1986 satirical play written by Steven Berkoff about the Falklands War**

from an Arts Council grant, the decision was taken to expand into new premises.

In 1979, a disused Methodist chapel close to Stepney Green was found. Close by the Tube station and on the main Mile End Road, the venue seated 200 and promised increased revenue to allow the company to thrive and grow.

Productions continued to impress, both in their design as well as in the performances. For the opening production in the new venue in 1979, a revival of Robert Tressell's *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists*, the team took advantage of the dilapidated state of the building by working that into the performance.

Later that year, Edward Bond's *The Worlds* took advantage of the fixed seating around a central



performance area. And that year too, Frances de la Tour began a successful collaboration with the Half Moon, appearing in the London premiere of Dario Fo's *We Can't Pay? We Won't Pay!*, Eleanor Marx's *Landscape of Exile* and Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. In the latter play, the former Miss Jones, of *Rising Damp* fame, played the prince himself.

Sometimes, alas, organisations can be the victims of their own success. The old chapel was now too small, and architect Florian Beigel (a name that seems ideally suited to the East End) came up with a plan to expand, with a new 'space' on land adjacent to the church.

Space was the apposite word – this would be a playhouse with no fixed seating, supremely flexible, allowing plays to be staged in any form director and company desired. £1m was raised, and the old chapel now became the theatre offices and a bar, while the new space would reflect "the most direct forms of theatre of the past, such as the Italian Commedia dell'Arte and the Elizabethan theatres with galleried courtyards, such as Shakespeare's Globe..."

But almost immediately the Half Moon was caught in a perfect storm of troubles. The new Thatcher government decreed that

arts organisations should be self-funding rather than relying on grants, which flew in the face of the company's policy of bringing low-cost theatre to those on low incomes.

The company's remit of producing challenging, leftist drama such as Steven Berkoff's *Sink The Belgrano!* was hardly likely to earn them much sympathy from a Tory government.

Meanwhile, the public taste for agit prop theatre was going into decline as the Eighties wore on, and audiences were down, while commercial sponsors proved resistant to backing a programme of plays out of tune with the consumerist decade.

The Half Moon now started using what remained of its Greater London Arts Association (GLAA) grant to service the debts from the ambitious rebuild. The hammer blow came when the GLAA then slashed the grant in half, pointing out that it was intended to fund performances, not capital projects.

In 1990, the theatre went 'dark' and for years was a gradually crumbling hulk on the Mile End Road. It would re-open as a Wetherspoon's pub, its name (The Half Moon) a mournful nod to what might have been.

But... some good ideas just won't go away. The young people's theatre survived as an independent company, became a charity and, in partnership with the council, bought the old Limehouse Board of Works on White Horse Road, Stepney, as a new base.

The company is (with the help of a cocktail of grants) now flourishing.

But the original Half Moon is not forgotten. Get involved with the project and you can help rebuild those memories.

■ BBC's *Man Alive* coverage of the E1 Festival: [tinyurl.com/nbostwz](http://tinyurl.com/nbostwz)  
■ Half Moon Theatre archive: [tinyurl.com/npuzzu2](http://tinyurl.com/npuzzu2)

## Get involved with the Half Moon project

Half Moon has received £46,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for its Stages of Half Moon project. Led by 100 local young people, it will shed light on the rich heritage of the theatre, the role it played in the East End and its development from the 1970s to the present day.

It will provide public access to the theatre's records for the first time through research, archiving, digitisation and a touring exhibition. Half Moon's youth theatres will also have the chance to perform some of the iconic plays developed there. Young people, aged 11 to 25, will gain skills in research and interviewing, including oral history, and will record on film the memories of local residents and theatre professionals.

The theatre's two surviving co-founders and artistic directors, Guy Sprung and Michael Irving, and subsequent artistic directors Robert Walker and Chris Bond, plus Steven Berkoff, Simon Callow, Josie Lawrence and Frances de la Tour, will all be recording their memories. Anyone wanting to get involved can email [history@halfmoon.org.uk](mailto:history@halfmoon.org.uk).





# Isku soo dhawaashada

War iyo wacaal waxaad haysaan u soo dir boga isku soo dhaweynta bulshada ee East End Life.

7364 3179



# হোয়াইটচ্যাপলে অনুষ্ঠিত হলো “স্মল বিজনেস স্যাটারডে” ইভেন্ট

ক্ষুদ্র ও মাঝারি ব্যবসা বাণিজ্যের প্রবৃদ্ধি নিশ্চিত করতে “স্মল বিজনেস স্যাটারডে” শীর্ষক এক অনুষ্ঠান ৫ ডিসেম্বর হোয়াইটচ্যাপল মার্কেটে অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। এ উপলক্ষে মার্কেট এলাকায় বসেছিলো গরম গরম খাবার ও কমিউনিটি স্টল। ছিলো মিউজিশিয়ান, ও স্ট্রিট পারফরমাদের পরিবেশনা। বিস্তারিত পড়ুন নিচে –

FESTIVE FUN IN WHITECHAPEL TO CELEBRATE SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

## Harmony

# Caawi qaxootiga degmada degay

## Extend a helping hand to refugees – issue 1089

**COUNCILKU wuxu dadka degmada ka codsanayaa inay ka fikiraan siday u caawin lahaayeen lahaayeen qaxootiga, ay ka mid yihiin kuwa kasoo kicitimay Syria, ee u baa-han samofalka in-saanimo.**

Dad aad u badan ayaa waxay soo mareen khataro iyo safar dheer, qaar badan oo kalena waxay naftooda ku waayeen siday Yurub usoo geli lahaayeen, ee ay u heli lahaayeen nolol nabad gelyo leh.

Duqa John Biggs ayaa yidhi: “Waxaan usoo jeedinayaa dadka degmada degan inay taageeraan hayadaha samofalka, si ugu deeqaan guryo nabadgelyo ah, cunto iyo dawooyin qaxootiga dhibaataysan.”

Raysal Wasaaruhu wuxu ku dhawaaqay in marka la gaadho 2020ka, Isutaga Boqortooyada Ingiriiska ay ku negaan doonaan 20,000 Suuriyaan qaxooti ah.

Dhamaan hogaamada kooxaha siyaasada ee Tower Hamlets, waxay Raysal Wasaaraha usoo jeediyeen, in qaxootiga loo diyaariyo dhaqaale ku filanoo lagu caawiyo, si aanay u saamayn adeegyada hore u jirey ee loo fidiyo dadka degmada degan.

Councilku wuxu sameeyey Golaha Qaxootiga iyo Deganaayaasha Cusub:

■ Si ay u ogaadaan waxyaabaha cusub ee ay la kulmi karaan qaxootiga iyo dadka soo haajirey; ■ Si uga maqlaan ururada degmada, khibradooda ku saabsan xubnaha cusub ee bulshada ee degmada soo degey;

■ Si ay u helaan siyaabo ay ku cadeeyaan uguna jawaabaan baahiyaha dadyawga dayacan, kuwa soo haajirey iyo qaxootiga.

Goluhu wuxu:

■ Wuxu xirfadlayaasha caafimaadka ee xaafadaha ku haggaa,

adeegyada asaasiga caafimaadka ee dadka soo haajirey iyo qaxootigu ee xaq u leeyihiin. ■ Wuxu iskuulada u bandhigaa shaqaalaha ku hadla luqado kala duwan.

■ Wuxu hubiyaa baahida bulshooyinka cusub, ee ay qiimaysay gudida caafimaadku.

■ Waxu warbixin ka bixiyaa isbedelada caruurta Tower Hamlets iyo qorshaha istiraati-jayada qoysaska, iyagoo midnaanta siinaya baahida dadka soo haajirey iyo qaxootiga.

Waxaad wixii tabaruc ah ku hagaajin kartaa ururka binu-aadninimada ama samofalka ee caawiya qaxootiga. Praxis wuxu caawiyaa qiyaas ahaan 1,200 dad ah, oo uu ka caawiyo dhibaatooyinka xaga sharciga, guryaha iyo guri la,aanta iyo mucaawinada manfaca.

Hadaad warbixin dheeraad ah u baahato booqo [www.praxis.org.uk](http://www.praxis.org.uk)



Mayor John Biggs joined visitors to Whitechapel Market on Small Business Saturday

# হোয়াইটচ্যাপল মার্কেটে অনুষ্ঠিত হলো “স্মল বিজনেস স্যাটারডে” ইভেন্ট

## Festive fun on Small Business Saturday – pages 10 & 11

ক্ষুদ্র ও মাঝারি ব্যবসা বাণিজ্যের প্রসার ও প্রবৃদ্ধি নিশ্চিত করতে “স্মল বিজনেস স্যাটারডে” শীর্ষক বিশেষ এক অনুষ্ঠান গত ৫ ডিসেম্বর হোয়াইটচ্যাপল মার্কেটে অনুষ্ঠিত হয়।

এ উপলক্ষে মার্কেট এলাকায় বসেছিলো গরম গরম খাবার ও কমিউনিটি স্টল। ছিলো মিউজিশিয়ান, ও স্ট্রিট পারফরমার এবং শিশু সঙ্গীত দলের সমবেত পরিবেশনা।

যখন হোয়াইটচ্যাপলে মূল অনুষ্ঠান চলছিলো, তখন কাউন্সিল ক্ষুদ্র ব্যবসায়ীদের সাথে মিলে কাউন্সিল বাসিন্দাদের বারার মার্কেটগুলোতে কেনাকাটা করতে উদ্বুদ্ধ করে।

হোয়াইটচ্যাপল এলাকার উন্নয়নে গৃহিত উচ্চাভিলাষি প্রকল্প হোয়াইটচ্যাপল ভিশন ঘোষনার পর এই হোয়াইটচ্যাপল মার্কেট ইভেন্ট গ্রহণ করা হয়। ঐ উচ্চাভিলাষি পরিকল্পনার আওতায় আগামী ১০ বছরে এই এলাকায় ৩৫০০ টি নতুন ঘর নির্মান হবে। এছাড়া ৫ হাজারেরও

বেশি চাকুরির সুযোগ সৃষ্টি হবে, যার অধিকাংশই আসবে পুরনো রয়েল লন্ডন হাসপাতালকে নতুন সিভিক হাব এ রূপান্তরের মাধ্যমে।

হোয়াইটচ্যাপল ভিশন পরিকল্পনায় ক্ষুদ্র ও স্থানীয় ব্যবসার জন্য সুনির্দিষ্ট স্থান বরাদ্দ রাখা হয়েছে। এর পাশাপাশি লন্ডনের প্রযুক্তি সিটি হিসেবে পরিচিত শর্ডিচের প্রবৃদ্ধিকে আরো সমৃদ্ধ করতে অবকাঠামোগত সুবিধাদি গড়ে তোলার পরিকল্পনাও রয়েছে এই প্রকল্পে। কাউন্সিলের এন্টারপ্রাইজ হোয়াইটচ্যাপল ইনিশিয়েটিভ হোয়াইটচ্যাপল এলাকায় খালি কিংবা কম ব্যবহৃত বিল্ডিংগুলো চিহ্নিত করবে এবং এগুলোকে ক্ষুদ্র ও মাঝারি ব্যবসার জন্য উৎপাদনমুখি ব্যবহারের আওতায় আনবে।

“স্মল বিজনেস স্যাটারডে” শীর্ষক বিশেষ অনুষ্ঠানটি সকাল ১১.৩০টায় শুরু হয়ে বিকাল ৪.৩০টা পর্যন্ত চলে। বাসিন্দা ও ব্যবসায়িরা আনন্দ

বিনোদনের সাথে কেনাকাটায় সময় কাটান।

মেয়র জন বিগস বলেন, ক্ষুদ্র ব্যবসা সংক্রান্ত এই ইভেন্টে বিপুল সংখ্যক মানুষের উপস্থিতি দেখে আমি অভিভূত। জনসাধারণ এই অনুষ্ঠানে এসে খুব আনন্দ করেছেন। হোয়াইটচ্যাপল হচ্ছে অত্যন্ত প্রতিষ্ঠিত ও জনপ্রিয় একটি মার্কেট জনপদ। নতুন ব্যবসা প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলো স্থানীয় বাসিন্দা ও এখানে বেড়াতে আসা লোকজনের চাহিদা মেটাচ্ছে।

কেবিনেট মেম্বার ফর ওয়ার্ক এন্ড ইকনোমিক গ্রোথ, কাউন্সিলর জসোয়া প্যাক বলেন, আমাদের দোকান পাটের ব্যবসা বাড়াতে স্মল বিজনেস স্যাটারডে ইভেন্টটি খুবই কার্যকর ভূমিকা পালন করেছে। একই সাথে পারফরমার ও মিউজিশিয়ানরা নাচ গানের মাধ্যমে গোটা এলাকাকে উৎসবমুখর করে তুলেন। স্থানীয় মার্কেটগুলোতে বাজার হাট করার জন্য আমি বাসিন্দাদের প্রতি অনুরোধ জানাচ্ছি।

# Hubinta mulkiile guri si looga hortago khiyaanada

## Vet landlords to avoid fraud – issue 1089

**COUNCILKU wuxu dadka guryaha kireysanaya xusu-usinayaa, inay iska hubiyaan khayaanada kaga iman karta mulkiilayaasha guryaha iyo wakaalada guryaha kireeya.**

Guud ahaan London, waxa kor dhaya kiisaska ay mulkiilayaasha guryaha iyo wakaaladaha guryaha kireeyaa, dadka si khayaano ah ugu qaadanayaan lacag horumarin ah, iyagoon ogolaansho uga haysan sharciyada ijaarka.

Dadka sida khaladka u kireysta guryaha, iyagoon ogaan heshiiska kirada runta ah ee ay xaq u leeyihiin, waxay bixiyaan

lacag badan oo kumanyaal ah, iyadoo ay dhici karto inay dhibaato la kulmaan marka wax khaldamaan. Guryaha ay kireeyaan councilka, iyo ururada bulshada diiwaangashani, waxa keliya oo lagu heli karaa habka dalabka guryaha oo loo marayo councilka.

Si aad u ogaato sharciyada ku saabsan mudada ijaarka booqo [www.thhs.org.uk](http://www.thhs.org.uk)

Hadaad rabto inaad guri si khaas ah u kireysato, waa inaad hubiso:

■ Nuqulka aqoonsiga uu ku siiyey qofkaad heshiiska kirada la gashay.

■ Koobiga qoraal xisaabeedka

deynta mulkiilaha guriga, oo cadaynaysa lahaanshaha guriga.

■ In qofka guriga kaa kireynaya lacag deyn ah lagu leeyahay, adigoo booqanaya adeega online oo aan lacag la bixinayn. [www.gov.uk/search-bankruptcy-insolvency-register](http://www.gov.uk/search-bankruptcy-insolvency-register)

■ Baadhista dhulka diiwaan gashani maaha qaali, waxaanay cadaynaysaa mulkiyada iyo mulkiyada la wada leeyahay, lacagta guriga lagu leeyahay, iyo xadaynta heshiishyada guriga saamaynaya.

■ In Qofka aad heshiiska kirada la saxeezanaysaa yahay mulkiilihii guriga lahaa.

# প্ল্যানিং এওয়ার্ড জিতলো ব্ল্যাকওয়াল রীচ রিজেনারেশন প্রজেক্ট

## Blackwall Reach scoops prize at the Planning Awards

ব্ল্যাকওয়াল রীচ রিজেনারেশন প্রজেক্ট ২০১৫ সালের প্ল্যানিং এওয়ার্ড কর্তৃক ‘প্ল্যানিং ফর হাউজিং গ্রোথ এওয়ার্ড’ জিতেছে।

এই উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়ন হওয়ার পর বর্তমান ২৮-২ টি ঘর প্রতিস্থাপনের পাশাপাশি নতুন প্রায় ১৫০০টি ঘর নির্মিত হবে। স্থানীয় কর্তৃপক্ষ, কনসালটেন্ট, ডেভেলপার, আইনজীবী, শ্বেচ্ছাসেবী ও নেইবারহুড গ্রুপগুলোর প্ল্যানিং কাজের অসাধারণ সাফল্যের স্বীকৃতি হচ্ছে এই প্ল্যানিং এওয়ার্ড।

সোয়ান হাউজিং এসোসিয়েশন, লন্ডন বারা অব টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস্ এবং গ্রেটার লন্ডন অথরিটির অংশিদারিত্বে গৃহিত ব্ল্যাকওয়াল রীচ রিজেনারেশন প্রজেক্টটি শুধু বারায় ঘর বাড়ির

সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি করবে না, এই প্রকল্পটি বাস্তবায়ন হলে এখানে নতুন দোকান পাট, বাণিজ্যিক স্থান, কমিউনিটি সুবিধাদি, মসজিদ এবং বর্তমান প্রাইমারী স্কুলের সম্প্রসারণ ও আধুনিকায়ন হবে।

সোয়ান হাউজিং এসোসিয়েশনের এক্সিকিউটিভ ডিরেক্টর অব রিজেনারেশন এন্ড ডেভেলপমেন্ট, জিওফ পেয়ার্স বলেন, এওয়ার্ড বিজয়ী রিজেনারেশন প্রজেক্ট বাস্তবায়নে সোয়ান এর রয়েছে অনন্য রেকর্ড। টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস্ কাউন্সিল এবং জিএলএ’র সাথে মিলে ব্ল্যাকওয়াল রীচ প্রকল্পটি মর্যাদাকর প্ল্যানিং এওয়ার্ড লাভ আমাদের কাজেরই স্বীকৃতি।

মেয়র, জন বিগস বলেন, ব্ল্যাকওয়াল রীচ হচ্ছে অনন্য একটি উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প, যার মাধ্যমে

এই এলাকায় অত্যন্ত প্রয়োজনীয় ১৫০০ ঘর সরবরাহ করা হবে। যারা ব্ল্যাকওয়াল রীচ এ বসবাস করছেন, এমন কয়েকটি পরিবারের সাথে আমি সম্প্রতি দেখা করেছি এবং তাদের আনন্দ ও গর্ব দেখে আমি বিমোহিত হয়েছি।

ডেপুটি মেয়র এবং কেবিনেট মেম্বার ফর হাউজিং, কাউন্সিলর সিরাজুল ইসলাম, ব্ল্যাকওয়াল রীচ স্কীমের সাথে সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে অভিনন্দন জানিয়ে বলেন, এই এওয়ার্ডটি পাওয়ার সত্যিকারের দাবিদার তারা এবং ঘর বাড়ির চাহিদা মেটাতে কাউন্সিল তার রেজিস্টার্ড প্রোভাইডারদের সাথে মিলে কাজ করে যাওয়ার ক্ষেত্রে যে কমিটমেন্ট দেখাচ্ছে, তারই স্বীকৃতি হচ্ছে এটি।





## বেথনাল গ্রীণ লাইব্রেরী আবার খুলে দেয়া হলো

সংস্কার ও আধুনিকায়ন কাজ সম্পন্নের পর আবারও জনসাধারণের জন্য খুলে দেয়া হলো টাওয়ার হ্যামলে–টস্ বারার ঐতিহ্যবাহি বেথনাল গ্রীণ লাইব্রেরীটি । ৮ মাস বন্ধ থাকার পর অফ ক্যামব্রীজ হীথ রোডের এই লাইব্রেরী ভবনটির দ্বার সবার জন্য উন্মুক্ত করা হয় গত ৭ ডিসেম্বর । বিস্তারিত পড়ুন নিচে –

BETHNAL GREEN LIBRARY RE-OPENS TO PUBLIC

## Harmony

# হোয়াইটচ্যাপলে অভিযান চালিয়ে নগদ ২ লাখ পাউন্ড, সোনার বার ও অবৈধ সিগারেট জব্দ

## Trading standards team and Met Police seize gold, cash and tobacco – 1089

হোয়াইটচ্যাপল এর ৫টি ব্যবসা প্রতিষ্ঠানে অভিযান চালিয়ে প্রায় ২৩০০০ পাউন্ড মূল্যের স্বর্ণের বার, নগদ ২ লাখ পাউন্ড এবং বিপুল পরিমাণ চোরাই পথে আনা সিগারেট উদ্ধার করা হয়েছে । ২৬ নভেম্বর কাউন্সিলের ট্র্যাডিং স্ট্যান্ডার্ডস্ টীম এবং মেট্রোপলিটান পুলিশ যৌথভাবে এই অভিযান চালায় । এসময় ৭ জনকে গ্রেফতারও করা হয় ।

অভিযানকালে ২ লাখ পাউন্ড নগদ অর্থ ও ২৩ হাজার পাউন্ড মূল্যের সোনার বার আটক করা হয় ।

একটি দোকান থেকে বিপুল পরিমাণ অবৈধ সিগারেট বা তামাক জাতীয় পণ্য জব্দ করার পাশাপাশি অনেকগুলো জাল পরিচয় সনাক্তকরণ কাগজপত্রও উদ্ধার করা হয় । কাছাকাছি আরেকটি দোকান ও অফিস থেকেও বিপুল পরিমাণ সিগারেট জব্দ করা হয় ।

কাউন্সিলের ট্রেডিং স্ট্যান্ডার্ড টিমের নেতৃত্বে তিন মাসের গবেষণা ও প্রত্নতির ফল হচ্ছে এই সফল অভিযান । কাউন্সিলের অর্থায়নে পরিচালিত পার্টনারশীপ টাস্ক ফোর্স (পিটিএফ) মেট্রোপলি–টান পুলিশ অফিসাররা কাউন্সিলের সাথে এই অভিযান অংশ নেন ।



The council's trading standards team and the Metropolitan Police seized gold, £200,000 in cash and a large quantity of illicit tobacco at raids in Whitechapel

সফল এই অভিযান সম্পর্কে ময়র, জন বিগস্ বলেন, আমাদের বারার রাস্তা ও বাসিন্দাদের নিরাপদ রাখতে টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস্ ট্রেডিং স্ট্যান্ডার্ডস্ অফিসাররা পুলিশ ও কমিউনিটির সাথে অত্যন্ত ঘনিষ্ঠভাবে কাজ করে যাচ্ছেন । গত সপ্তাহের এই বিপুল পরিমাণ অবৈধ মালামাল জব্দের ঘটনার মধ্য দিয়ে আমাদের পার্টনারশীপ

কাজের সাফল্যই ফুটে ওঠেছে । একই সাথে অপকর্মকারীদের প্রতি সুস্পষ্টভাবে এই বার্তা দেয়া হলো যে, যারা বৈধ ব্যবসায়ীদের পথের কাঁটা এবং অপরাধমূলক কাজের সাথেই জড়িত থাকবে, তাদের আমরা বিন্দুমাত্র বরদাশত করবো না । ডেপুটি মেয়র ও কেবিনেট মেম্বার ফর কমিউনিটি সেফটি, কাউন্সিলর শিরিয়া খাতুন



বলেন, অবৈধ কর্মকাণ্ডের ফলাফল হচ্ছে এই এ্যাকশন । আমাদের এই বারায় যে কোনরূপ অবৈধ কর্মকাণ্ড আমরা বিন্দুমাত্র বরদাশত করি না, তারই প্রমাণ হলো এই যৌথ অভিযান । অভি–যান চালিয়ে এই বিপুল পরিমাণ বেআইনী পণ্য জব্দ করার সাফল্যের জন্য ট্রেডিং স্ট্যান্ডার্ডস্ টিম ও পুলিশ ধন্যবাদ পাওয়ার দাবিদার ।

## ঐকতান

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### News in brief

সাক্ষরতার হার বাড়তে বিভিন্ন পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ

বারায় সাক্ষরতার হার বাড়তে বিভিন্ন ধরনের পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ করেছে টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস্ কাউন্সিল ।

পড়ার ও লেখার দক্ষতাকে সন্তোষজনক মানে উন্নীত করার মাধ্যমে সাক্ষরতার মাত্রাকে বাড়ানো ব্যাপারে কাউন্সিল দৃঢ় প্রতিজ্ঞ । কারণ কোন একজন ব্যক্তির পড়া ও লেখার দক্ষতা বাড়ানোর ফলে যে শুধু ঐ ব্যক্তি লাভবান হন, তা নয়, এর ফলে অর্থনৈতিক উন্নতিও ঘটে ।

কাউন্সিলর ডেনিস জোনস্ এর নেতৃত্বে জুটিনি বা পুজানুপুজভাবে পর্যালোচনার পর গত ১ ডিসেম্বর অনুষ্ঠিত কেবিনেট মিটিংয়ে কাউন্সিলের চলমান ও ভবিষ্যত কার্যক্রমের একটি রূপরেখা অনুমোদন করা হয় । এইসব পদক্ষেপের মধ্যে রয়েছেঃ কাউন্সিলের ওয়েবসাইটে যেসকল তথ্যাদি রয়েছে তার মান বাড়ানো । কী স্টেজ ও এর জন্য পরীক্ষামূলকভাবে একাডেমিক ইংলিশ প্রোগ্রাম গ্রহণ ও বাস্তবায়ন এবং এর সাফল্য বার্থ তা পর্যালোচনা করা এবং রিডিং রিকোভারি প্রোগ্রাম পরিচালনা অব্যাহত রাখতে গ্র্যান্ট এর সুযোগ খতিয়ে দেখা ও কর্পোরেট স্পন্সর খুঁজে বের করা ।

মেয়র, জন বিগস বলেন, এই পদক্ষেপগুলো খুবই প্রয়োজনীয় ছিলো । কিভাবে আমরা টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসে সাক্ষরতার হার বাড়াবো, তারই একটি ব্রুপ্রিন্ট হচ্ছে এই পদক্ষেপসমূহ । বারার জনসাধারণের ওপর এই পদক্ষেপগুলো জীবন পরিবর্তনকারী প্রভাব ফেলবে ।

কমিউনিটি এ্যালকোহল পার্টনারশীপ প্রশংসিত

অগ্রাণু বয়স্কদের মধ্যে মদ্য পানের প্রবণতা হ্রাস এবং এই আসক্তির ফলশ্রুতিতে সংঘটিত নানা সমাজ বিরোধী কার্যকলাপ দমনে কাউন্সিলের একটি উদ্ভাবনী স্কীম ব্যাপকভাবে প্রশংসিত হয়েছে ।

সারা দেশে এই ধরনের সকল উদ্যোগের ব্যাপক ভিত্তিক পর্যালোচনা ও মূল্যায়ন শেষে টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস্ কাউন্সিলের কমিউনিটি এ্যালকোহল পার্টনারশীপ (সিএপি) সেরা বলে বিবেচিত হয় । বেথনালগ্রীণ এবং সেন্ট পিটার্স ওয়ার্ডে গত এপ্রিল মাসে প্রজেক্টটি আনুষ্ঠানিকভাবে চালু করা হয় । বছর ব্যাপি পরিচালিত এই প্রজেক্টের ফলে এন্টি–সোশ্যাল বিহেভিয়ার বা এএসবি'র হার ৪৬ পার সেন্ট হ্রাস পায় এবং মদ বা মদ জাতীয় পানীয় জব্দের হার ৮৭ শতাংশ বৃদ্ধি পায় ।

এছাড়া এই একই সময়কালে বেথনাল গ্রীণ ও সেন্ট পিটার্স ওয়ার্ডে কম বয়সীদের দ্বারা সংঘটিত উচ্ছৃঙ্খল আচরণের হার ৮০ শতাংশ হ্রাস পেয়েছে ।

এই প্রজেক্টের আওতায় স্থানীয় খুচরা বিক্রেতাদেরকে তাদের দায় দায়িত্ব সম্পর্কে অবহিত করা, বিশেষ করে ১৮ বছরের কম বয়সীদের কাছে এ্যালকোহল বা মদ জাতীয় পানীয় বিক্রি না করতে উদ্বুদ্ধ করা হয় ।

■ The above stories are: Drive to improve literacy rates; CAP praised – both issue 1089.



Cllr Begum joined Shazia Hussain, head of culture, learning and leisure, staff and visitors

## বেথনাল গ্রীণ লাইব্রেরী আবার খুলে দেয়া হলো

## Bethnal Green Library re-opens to public – page 12

সংস্কার ও আধুনিকায়ন কাজ সম্পন্নের পর আবারও জনসাধারণের জন্য খুলে দেয়া হলো টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস্ বারার ঐতিহ্যবাহি বেথনাল গ্রীণ লাইব্রেরীটি ।

৮ মাস বন্ধ থাকার পর অফ ক্যামব্রীজ হীথ রোডের এই লাইব্রেরী ভবনটির দ্বার সবার জন্য উন্মুক্ত করা হয় গত ৭ ডিসেম্বর ।

এই লাইব্রেরীটি প্রতিষ্ঠিত হয় ১৯২২ সালে । চলতি বছরের ফেব্রুয়ারী ও মার্চ মাসে স্থানীয় বাসিন্দাদের সাথে পরামর্শ করে টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস্ কাউন্সিল গ্রেড ২ তালিকাভুক্ত ভবনটির প্রয়োজনীয় সংস্কারের জন্য বন্ধ রাখা হয় । উন্নয়ন কাজের মধ্যে ছিলো, বিল্ডিং এর

পুরনো হিটিং সিস্টেম পরিবর্তন, ভবনটিতে ব্যবহৃত এসবেস্টোস সামগ্রী অপসারণ, প্রধান লাইব্রেরী ও এর রুমগুলোতে প্রয়োজনীয় সংস্কার ও পুণঃসজ্জিতকরণ কাজ । এসব কাজের পাশাপাশি ছিলো, অত্যাধুনিক ওয়াই–ফাই সিস্টেম স্থাপন, ইন্টারনেট একসেস এর জন্য ৮টি কম্পিউটার, স্ক্যানিং, প্রিন্টিং সুবিধাদি, লেপটপ ব্যবহারকারীদের জন্য নতুন বেঞ্চ স্থাপন, যারা নিজেদের ডিভাইস ব্যবহার করবেন, তাদের জন্য আরামদায়ক বসার জায়গা, লাইব্রেরীর নতুন লে আউট ইত্যাদি ।

কেবিনেট মেম্বার ফর কালচার, কাউন্সিলর আসমা বেগম লাইব্রেরী ভবনটি আনুষ্ঠানিকভাবে

খুলে দেয়ার অনাড়ম্বর অনুষ্ঠানে যোগ দেন । এসময় তিনি বলেন, প্রায় শত বছর ধরে অসাধারণ স্থাপত্যের এই ভবনটি আমাদের কমিউনিটির হৃদয়ের মধ্যখানে রয়েছে । আট মাস বন্ধ থাকার পর ভবনটির দরোজা আবার সবার জন্য উন্মুক্ত হওয়ায় আমরা সবাই উৎফুল্ল ।

বেথনাল গ্রীণ লাইব্রেরীর ওপেনিং আওয়ার অর্থাৎ খোলা থাকার সময় সেই আগের মতোই রয়েছে । সোম, মঙ্গল, বুধ ও শুক্রবার সকাল ১০টা থেকে বিকাল ৬টা, বৃহস্পতিবার সকাল ১০টা থেকে রাত ৮টা এবং শনিবার সকাল ৯টা থেকে বিকাল ৫টা পর্যন্ত লাইব্রেরিটি খোলা থাকে ।

## হিস্ট্রি লাইব্রেরীর অনলাইন ক্যাটালগ উদ্বোধন ১৭ ডিসেম্বর Discover Tower Hamlets’ history online

টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস্ লকাল হিস্ট্রি এন্ড আর্কাইভ এর অনলাইন ক্যাটালগ আগামী ১৭ ডিসেম্বর চালু হবে । এই ব্র্যান্ড নিউ ডিজিটাল টুল এর সাহায্যে বাসিন্দারা অতি সহজেই নিজের ঘরে বসে নিজের এলাকার ইতিহাস সম্পর্কে জানার সুযোগ পাবেন ।

টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস্ কাউন্সিল কর্তৃক পরিচালিত হিস্ট্রি লাইব্রেরী অনলাইন ক্যাটালগ উদ্বোধন লক্ষে ১৭ ডিসেম্বর সন্ধ্যা ৬টায় বিশেষ এক অনুষ্ঠানের আয়োজন করেছে । এতে যোগদানকারী অতিথিদের সামনে লাইব্রেরীর কর্মীরা ক্যাটালগ ওয়েবসাইটের বিভিন্ন দিক্ উপস্থাপন করবেন ।

ঐ অনুষ্ঠানে ক্রিসমাস গিফট স্টল এবং সাধারণত তাল চাবি দিয়ে সংরক্ষণ করে রাখা কিছু দুর্লভ গ্রন্থের প্রদর্শনী অনুষ্ঠিত হবে ।

টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস্ হিস্ট্রি লাইব্রেরীতে ১৬ শতক থেকে শুরু করে আধুনিক সময়ের ইতিহাস, ঐতিহ্য, কৃষ্টি ও সংস্কৃতির প্রতিফলন হয়, এমন সংগ্রহের বিশাল সমাহার রয়েছে । যেমনঃ এখানে রয়েছে ২০ সহস্রাব্দিক বই, যার অনেকগুলোই অত্যন্ত বিরল সংস্করণ, ১৯০১ সাল থেকে সর্বসাম্প্রতিক সময়কাল পর্যন্ত ভোটের নিবন্ধন তালিকা ও অন্যান্য পারিবারিক ইতিহাসের উপাত্তসমূহ, ৩৬ হাজার ছবি, চিত্র, ৪ হাজারেরও বেশি ম্যাপ, ঘর বাড়ি, জমি হস্তান্তর সংক্রান্ত ৪ হাজার টাইটেল ইত্যাদি ।

বিভিন্ন বিষয় ও সময়কাল উল্লেখ করে যে কেউ এই অনলাইন ক্যাটালগ থেকে নিজের পছন্দের বিষয়টি খুঁজে নিতে পারবেন । তারপর রেফারেন্স নাথার বের করে নিজে সশরীরে

লাইব্রেরীতে গিয়ে অরিজিন্যাল আইটেমটি সহজেই বের করে দেখতে পারবেন ।

কেবিনেট মেম্বার ফর কাউন্সিলর আসমা বেগম বলেন, অনলাইন ক্যাটালগের সুবাদে এখন থেকে আপনি পৃথিবীর যেখানেই থাকেন না কেন, টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসের ইতিহাস ও সংস্কৃতি সম্পর্কে জানতে পারবেন । ইতিহাস ঐতিহ্য সম্পর্কে জানতে আগ্রহীদেরকে চমৎকার এই ডিজিটাল টুলস্ ব্যবহার করে টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসের সমৃদ্ধ ইতিহাস জানার আমন্ত্রণ জানাচ্ছি ।

টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস্ হিস্ট্রি লাইব্রেরী প্রতি মঙ্গলবার ও বুধবার বিকাল ৫ টা পর্যন্ত, বৃহস্পতিবার রাত ৮টা পর্যন্ত খোলা থাকে । আসন্ন ক্রিসমাস উপলক্ষে এটি ২৪ ডিসেম্বর থেকে ১ জানুয়ারী পর্যন্ত বন্ধ থাকবে ।

## শুরু হলো শীতকালীন বই পড়া প্রতিযোগিতা

## The Winter Reading Challenge launches – page 6

কাউন্সিলের উদ্যোগে বারার সকল আইডিয়া স্টোর ও লাইব্রেরীতে শুরু হয়েছে শিশুদের জন্য শীতকালীন বই পড়া প্রতিযোগিতা ।

৪ বছর থেকে ১১ বছর বয়সীরা এই প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশ নিয়ে ক্রিসমাসের আগ পর্যন্ত ৪টি বা তার বেশি সংখ্যক বই পড়তে হবে । যারাই উইন্টার রিডিং চ্যালেঞ্জ এ অংশ নিয়ে নূন্যপক্ষে ৪টি বই পড়বে, তাদের প্রত্যেককে এচিভমেন্ট সার্টিফিকেট দেয়া হবে ।

এই কর্মসূচির অংশ হিসেবে আগামী ২১

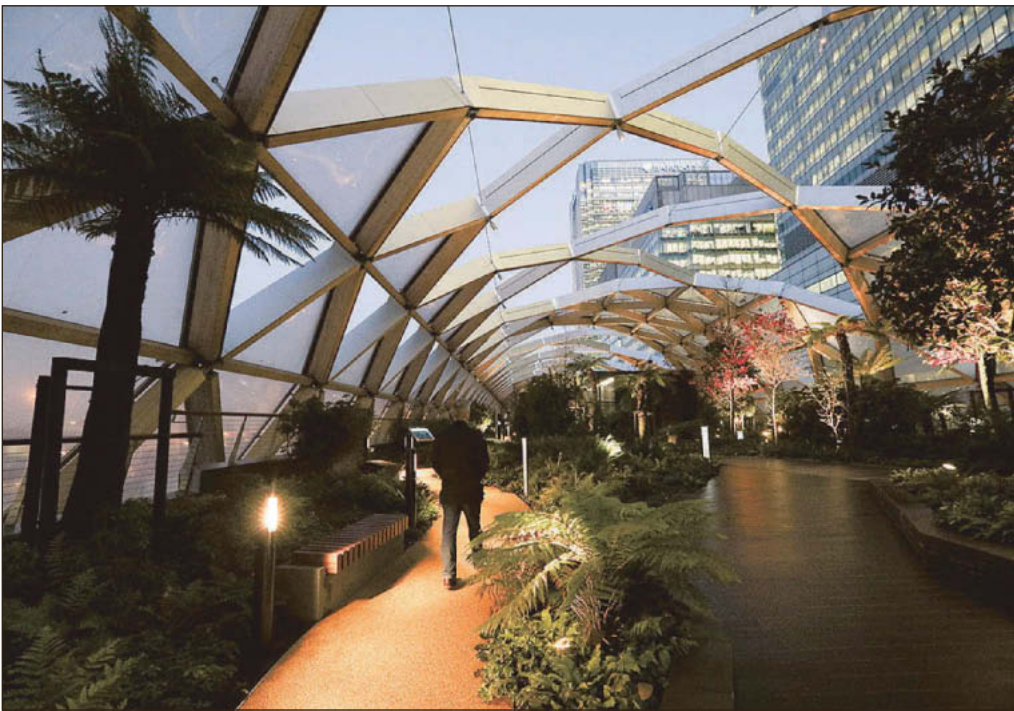
ডিসেম্বর বেলা ২টা থেকে ৪টা পর্যন্ত হোয়াইটচ্যাপল আইডিয়া স্টোরে সান্টার সাথে দেখা করার সুযোগ পাবে শিশুরা ।

আইডিয়া স্টোরগুলোর স্টাফরা এবারের প্রতি–যোগিতার জন্য যে বইগুলোকে বাছাই করেছেন, তার মধ্যে রয়েছেঃ ড. সাস এর লেখা হাও দ্যা গ্রিন স্টল ক্রিসমাস, মাইকেল মরপুরগো'র লেখা ক্রিসমাস স্টোরিজ, স্টেলা ব্যাগট এর বেবিজ ভেরি ফাস্ট টাচি–ফিলি ক্রিসমাস বুক এবং রড ক্যাম্পবেল এর ডিয়ার সান্তা ।

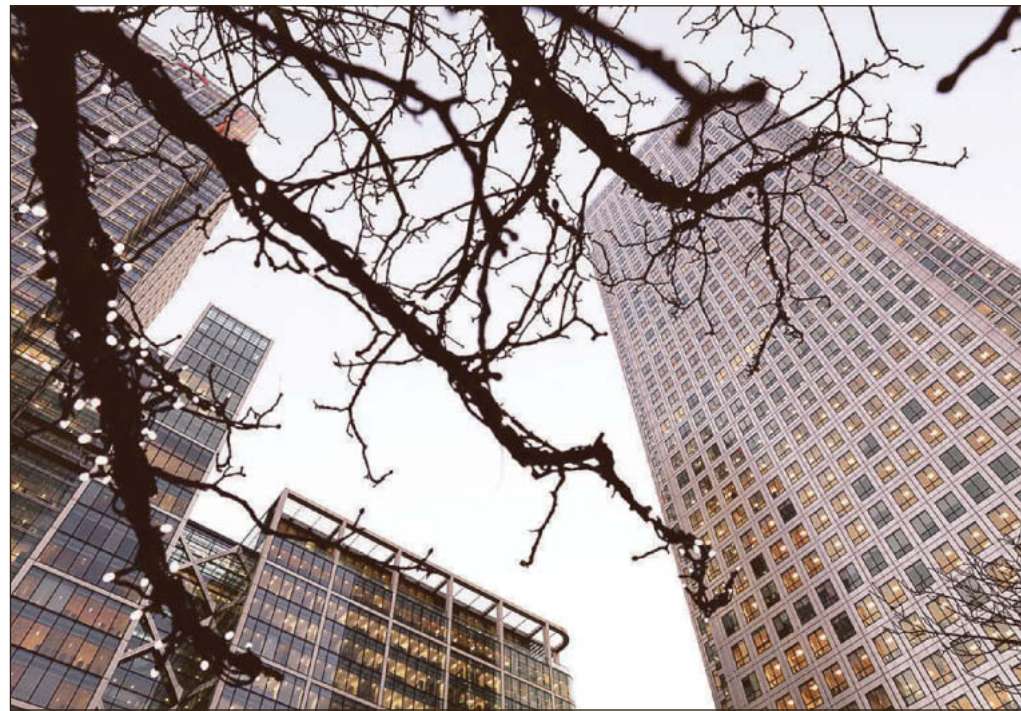
উল্লেখ্য, এবারের সামার রিডিং চ্যালেঞ্জে অংশ নিয়েছিলো টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসের ৪ হাজার শিশু ।

সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক কেবিনেট মেম্বার, কাউন্সিলর আসমা বেগম বলেন, এই শীতকালীন বই পড়া প্রতিযোগিতা বারা হিসেবে আমাদের জন্য খুবই জরুরী । স্কুল সময়ের বাইরে বই পড়ার ফলে বাচ্চাদের জ্ঞানের পরিধি যে বৃদ্ধি পায় এবং এটি তাদের স্কুলওয়ার্কে সাহায্য করে ও জীবনভর বই পড়ার অভ্যাস গড়ে ওঠে তার অনেক প্রমাণ রয়েছে ।





The Crossrail Place roof garden, designed by Norman Foster, offers an oasis of calm



Fairy-lit trees frame Canada Tower with a little touch of winter wonder

# Wonderland Wharf

## Walk of the Month: Canary Wharf

On this month's walk, **Graham Barker** encounters sculptures, skaters and stocking fillers amid the parks and malls of Canary Wharf. Photos by **Kois Miah**.

**WITH the festive season upon us, Canary Wharf is a magical place to visit, especially after dusk, as you follow this route you'll see fairy-lit street trees, skaters whizzing around the ice-rink and bars busy with office parties.**

Gift seekers will find high-end fashions and budget-friendly stocking fillers. And to escape the commercial hubbub there's a peaceful moment amidst ferns and bamboos in the Crossrail rooftop garden.

The walk starts at Heron Quays DLR station. The railway track runs on high, within a teal-coloured hulk propped by steels. As you exit, look for Charles Hadcock's Helisphere – a spliced cast iron globe – the first of several sculptures hereabouts. Canary Wharf Group has one of the UK's largest public art collections, with more than 60 artworks dotted around.

Cross over to Middle Dock (1), one of three that once formed the West India Docks. The DLR viaduct – painted as 'A Beautiful Sunset Mistaken for a Dawn' in exuberant pinks and blues by Sinta Tantra – runs over the water towards the Canary Wharf train shed, picked out with red girders.

Middle Dock is only about half its original size; since 1999 the eastern section has accommodated the underground station, topped by Jubilee Park.

As you enter the park, another Hadcock sculpture – Torsion II – gently twists like a stairway to the stars.

**The roof is inset with air-filled plastic cushions, like a giant arc of bubblewrap."**

Jubilee Park (2) is a delightful green pocket amidst the skyscrapers, landscaped by Jacques Wirtz.

The pathway winds its way beside stepped fountains, cloaked in limestone, and currently it's illuminated by a nine-lamp menorah to mark the Jewish festival of Chanukah.

During the festive period, mulled wine and hot cider are on offer from pop-up shacks in Montgomery Square – just beyond the park – but today your route goes into the angular glass pavilion about half way through.

An escalator takes you down to

Jubilee Place shopping mall (3). It's feeling festive at the moment: Santa's grotto sits within a house made of sweets, and trees are decorated in gold and cream baubles.

Explore the outlets – upmarket women's wear, shoes and toiletries to the right, and restaurants straight ahead offering pizzas, burgers and peri peri chicken.

As you progress, look out for Emma Biggs' beautiful pavement mosaics depicting old-time dock cargoes, framed with snippets such as "Three million pounds



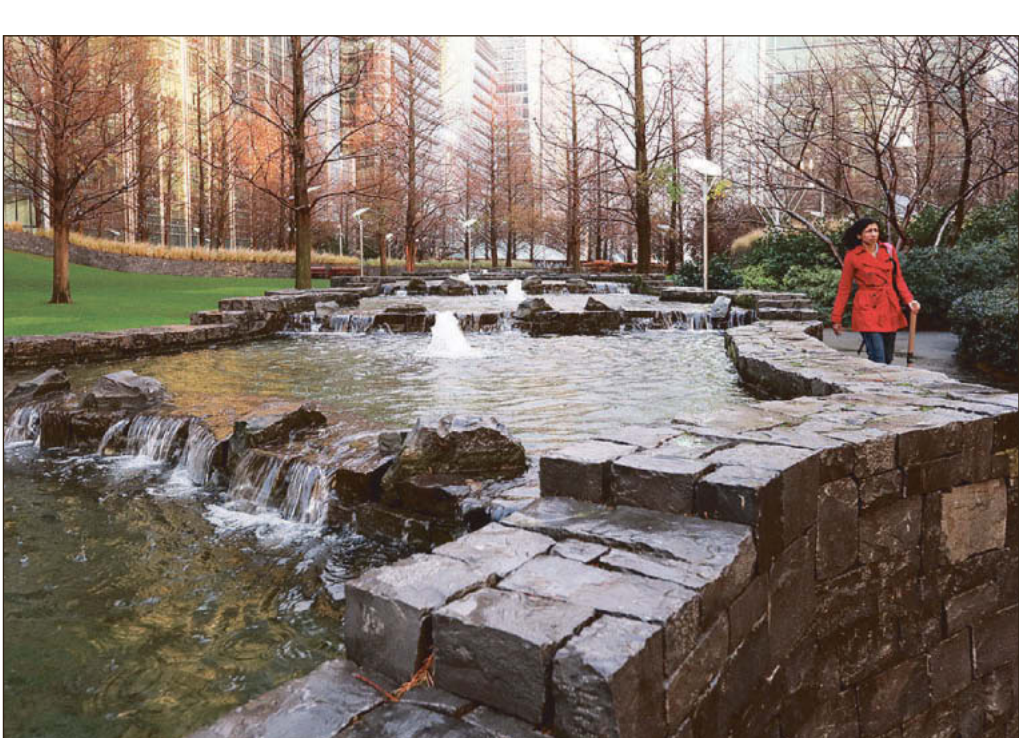
Bob Allen's 'It Takes Two' sculpture, one of many works of public art on show at Canary Wharf



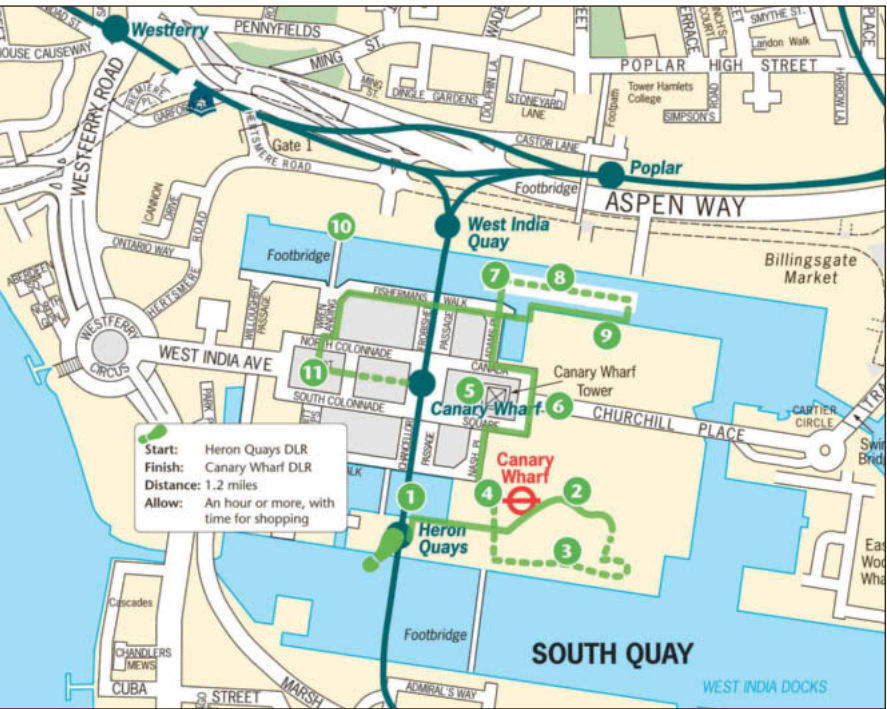




Santa’s grotto is open for business at Jubilee Place shopping mall



The charming water feature will transport you from the hubub of city life



of feathers were sold annually before the First World War” and “Imported python skins could be more than 20 feet long”. Light wells peer into the level below. Take the escalator down and stroll by fashion boutiques, sports shops and a shoe-shine stand, heading for the Jubilee line station (4). You emerge into the vast cavernous ticket hall, with light pouring in through the arched glass canopy. Take the escalators up. Back outside, an illuminated Reuters ticker-tape talks of oil prices and company profits as it races around the corner.

Small cabins – one cleverly shaped like a concertina file – sell street food and protein shakes, beside six Swiss railway clocks by Konstantin Grcic. One Canada Square (5) shimmers ahead of you, towering up 46 storeys and topped by a pyramid. Architect Cesar Pelli designed it as the centrepiece for developers Olympia & York and it instantly became a London landmark. Take a look inside the lobby – clad in pink and black marble – and help yourself to a free art map.

From South Colonnade, Canada Square (6) opens out, framed with fairy-lit trees, benches and the sensuous ‘It Takes Two’ sculpture. In summer you’ll find open-air concerts here – cabaret and comedy in the Spiegeltent, for example – and in winter it’s transformed with an ice rink. Watch the skaters – some confident, others wobbly – as they work their way round. Restaurants alongside sell Mexican quesadillas, Japanese sushi and British classics.

Cross North Colonnade to HSBC’s offices, guarded by bronze lions – nicknamed Stephen and Stitt after former bank managers in Shanghai. A history wall of photos dominates the lobby. Beyond Credit Suisse and Bank of America, a wide white tube-walk – reminiscent of a science fiction film – leads

you to Crossrail Place (7). When it opens in 2018, Crossrail will transform transport connections across London. It’s a colossal achievement in civil engineering terms; take time to look at the photo exhibition to appreciate the sheer scale of it. This six-storey structure – designed by Norman Foster & Partners to resemble a liner berthed in North Dock – is more than a train station; it incorporates shops, restaurants and a remarkable rooftop garden (8). Take the escalators up one level. The spruce lattice roof is inset with air-filled plastic cushions, rather like a giant arc of bubblewrap, punctured here and there. Before heading into the gardens, skirt around the Big Easy steak and lobster shack, for glimpses towards the City and then over the Poplar skyline; in time, a link will be created to Poplar DLR station. The location has inspired the garden planting, as the station sits close to the prime meridian, the point at which east meets west; initially the plants you encounter are western tree ferns, sweet gum and bananas, before transitioning to eastern bamboos, maples and magnolias. Weave your way through, or pause to enjoy the peace. At the far end – beside a pop-up performance space – two escalators take you down to Level -1. Out on the



Canary Wharf station

Try out some ice dance moves at Canada Square park

quayside, there’s a parade of gift shops, international restaurants, cycle outlets and a luxury cinema. Somewhat unexpectedly, two Midland Bank war memorials (9) sit opposite, incorporating St George and the Recording Angel by Albert Toft. The pathway opens out into Adams Place, landscaped with shallow water pools and tiled planters. Keep beside the dock, past the rippled Douglas Fir sculpture by Keith Rand, and bars buzzing with office Christmas parties. From the steps at Wren’s Landing there’s a view across the lime-green bridge floating on cylindrical pontoons as it arcs towards the Georgian former dock warehouses (10), now home to restaurants and the free-to-visit Museum of London Docklands. Lynn Chadwick’s sculpture ‘Couple on Seat’ welcomes you into Cabot Square (11). You’re surrounded by water – cascades and a giant central pool, dancing with fountains – and it’s a final chance to marvel at the skyscrapers before heading indoors to Cabot Place. Inside, Canary Wharf DLR station marks the end of the walk. But with so much to tempt, you might like to stay longer – a chance to shop for presents, try out some skating acrobatics, or relax in a nearby restaurant or bar.





A range of services

The council provides many services for residents and businesses. Go to the A-Z on the website at...

WWW.TOWERHAMLETS.GOV.UK

Council information

Tower Hamlets forward planner

TOWER Hamlets Council produces a forward plan every month detailing the key decisions it will take, together with the details of

the author, and consultation undertaken. It can be found in Idea Stores, libraries, One Stop Shops and council offices or at [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/data/your-council/data/forward-plan/forward-plan.cfm](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/data/your-council/data/forward-plan/forward-plan.cfm)

Meetings

Tuesday, December 15

6.30pm: Licensing sub-committee

Business includes an application for a new premises licence for Bleeker St Burger, Unit B, SP 4 Pavilion Building, Lamb Street, Old Spitalfields Market, and an application for temporary event notices for 22-36 Raven Row, Whitechapel. For details call Simmi Yesmin on 7364 4120 or email [simmi.yesmin@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:simmi.yesmin@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

Wednesday, December 16

7pm: Development committee For details call Zoe Folley on 7364 4877 or email [zoe.folley@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:zoe.folley@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

Details are accurate at time of going to press. Agendas are available online a week before meetings, which are at the Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, Poplar, E14 2BG, except cabinet.

The Government is changing benefits

Prepare and act now

The Government is changing the benefit system as part of its plan to reduce welfare. If you are claiming benefits, you may be affected. If you are not, you may be able to claim new benefits. The impact of these changes could be significant. It is important to prepare now to avoid any disruption to your benefits. For more information about the changes visit the government website [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) or call 0800 506 506, or telephone 0800 506 506.

Get information on welfare reform

The council's benefits service can provide information about housing benefit, council tax benefit and entitlement to free school meals. It has compiled a list of helpful agencies at...

WWW.TOWERHAMLETS.GOV.UK/WELFAREREFORM

Planning

E1W

Unit 304, Metropolitan Wharf Building, 70 Wapping Wall – install internal demountable partitions of glass and plasterboard to create usable business space.

E1

11 Mile End Place – single-storey rear extension. Redundant railway viaduct north of Pooley House, Westfield Way – details of piling and foundations of planning permission, ref: PA/10/01458.

223 Whitechapel Road – retrospective application for conversion of snooker club into 3 x 1-bed, 2 x 2-bed and 1 x 3-bed self-contained flats.

28-30 Hessel Street – change of use to residential.

31-33 Prescott Street – details of samples, archaeological investigation and contaminated land of planning permission, ref: PA/14/03553.

32 New Road – change of use from residential to HMO.

E2

65 Old Bethnal Green Road – replacement of PVC windows with timber double-glazed units, enlargement of rear basement and ground floor window, installation of rooflight, metal balustrade at rear roof elevation, creation of private roof terrace.

25b Vyner Street – upgrade of existing facade including cleaning, replacement windows and partial re-cladding. Relocation of entrance doors at ground floor. Extension of existing terrace on second floor. Construction of new balcony at first floor overhanging refuse storage area and new plant enclosure on part of first floor roof.

Flat 18, James Brine House, Ravenscroft Street – extension to include additional bedroom.

E3

Land at rear of 48-52 Grove Road – 1 x 1-bed flat.

86 Clinton Road – rear side infill extension.

E14

Landons Close, Jamestown Harbour Estate – electronically controlled security gates.

Lancaster Drive and Bridge House, Jamestown Harbour, Bridge House Quay – electronically controlled security gates for vehicular and pedestrian access.

173 East India Dock Road – details of cycle parking of planning permission, ref: PA/15/2224.

88 Narrow Street – samples details, including joinery, rear double storey window, including timber shutters, of planning permission, ref: PA/15/00896.

This is not a definitive list of planning applications – go to [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk) and click on Planning & Building.

Drug treatment providers

Community Drug Team

Substitute prescribing, key working, health screening & referral to residential treatment. 71 Johnson Street, E1. 7790 1344 [www.lifeline.org.uk](http://www.lifeline.org.uk)

Nafas

Support with a focus on Bangladeshi community. The Davenant Centre, 179-181 Whitechapel Road, E1 7377 0676.

Harbour Recovery Centre

In-patient detox for 18+ males. Riverside House, 4th Floor, 20 Garford Street, E14. 7538 9421

Young People's Service

Treatment for under-19s Unit 26, Skyline Village, Limeharbour, E14. 3069 7878 [www.lifeline.org.uk](http://www.lifeline.org.uk)

Isis

For women aged over 18 c/o Hopetown Hostel, 60 Old Montague Street, E1. 7426 0399 [www.compass-uk.org](http://www.compass-uk.org)

Community Alcohol Team

Unit 22, Skylines Village Limeharbour, E14. 0800 008 7200 [www.rapt.org.uk](http://www.rapt.org.uk)

Somali Substance Misuse

Help, advice & referral for people with khat, alcohol or drug issues. Contact Idriis Elmi. Mind in Tower Hamlets & Newham, Open House 13 Whitethorn Street, E3. 7510 1081

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Community safety surgeries

There are two community safety surgeries being held this week.

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School admissions consultation Transparency protocol launched Flytip squad launched New homes on Burdett Estate

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Council tax Parking Waste & recycling Planning

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John Biggs is the Executive Mayor of Tower Hamlets. Find out more about Mayor Biggs and his priorities, and how to get in touch.

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Tower Hamlets online

[www.towerhamlets.gov.uk](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk)

For information on council services, including:

- report a missed rubbish collection
- make a doorstep recycling request
- report an abandoned vehicle
- bulk rubbish collections

Deep-clean is under way

THE council has launched Your Space Your Place by embarking on a new programme to deep clean the borough's streets.

The Clean Team began work on the Boundary Estate in Bethnal Green last week.

Parking was suspended in Arnold Circus and nearby streets over three days, so roads and pavements could be cleaned.

Waste contractor Veolia used mechanical road sweepers and

jet pressure washers, while teams from its outreach project and the council's clean and green volunteers collected waste.

Graffiti was scrubbed from buildings not owned by the council and drains were cleared of blockages.

The deep-clean will be extended to other areas in the coming weeks and months.

Your Place Your Space attempts to encourage people to treat the streets as they would

rooms in their own home. This latest initiative follows a range of measures introduced to help make the borough cleaner.

The council recently launched a Fly-Tip Squad and the mayor scrapped the £15 charge for bulky waste collections.

Cllr Ayas Miah, cabinet member for environment, said: "We hope by seriously cleaning areas across the borough, everyone can be proud of the area they live, visit or work in."

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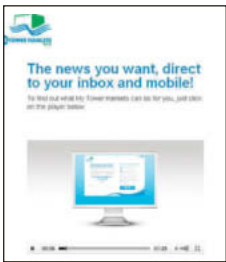
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## Register now for free news

Tower Hamlets residents can register for the free news and consultation service giving updates on subjects they choose as often as they want them. For more information visit...

[MY.TOWERHAMLETS.GOV.UK](http://MY.TOWERHAMLETS.GOV.UK)



## Did you get it?

Last week's picture was of Crown Gate West in Victoria Park.

## Council information

### Town Hall

Town Hall, Mulberry Place,  
5 Clove Crescent, E14 2BG.  
7364 5000

### Hotline numbers

Housing benefits – 7364 5001  
Council tax – 7364 5002  
Parking services – 7364 5003  
Streetline – 7364 5004  
Adult social care – 7364 5005  
Children's services – 7364 5006  
Pest and noise nuisance –  
7364 5007  
Employment & skills service  
(Skillsmatch) – 7364 3727  
Environmental health,  
trading standards & licensing  
– 7364 5008  
Planning & development  
– 7364 5009  
Business rates – 7364 5010  
Recruitment line – 7364 5011  
Electoral services – 7364 0872  
Tower Hamlets Homes  
– 7364 5015  
Healthline – 7364 5016  
Anti-Fraud – 0800 528 0294

### General enquiries

Council enquiries – 7364 5020.

### Useful housing numbers

Housing repairs – 0800 376 1637  
Tenancy support – 7364 5544  
Housing advice – 7364 3558  
Homeless service – 7364 7474  
Choice-based lettings  
– 7364 0244  
Homeseekers – 0845 270 2400

### Switchboard

If you know the name of the person or department you wish to speak to, call the switchboard on 7364 5000.



Do you know where to find this unusual feature of the borough? Our popular oddities picture poser gives readers the chance to keep their eyes peeled to see if they can spot where our photographers took the pictures. If you have photos of your own you would like to see published in East End Life, email them to [eastendlife.news@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:eastendlife.news@towerhamlets.gov.uk) or send them to Photo Poser, East End Life, Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, Poplar, E14 2BG. They need to be high resolution, at least 1MB and 300 dpi.

### Report it!

To report an incident, use these 24-hour freephone numbers:

Non-emergency crimes – 101  
Textphone – 18001 101

If a crime is in progress, there is an emergency or if anyone is in immediate danger dial 999.

The council's domestic violence team can provide information, signposting and referrals to local services. Bengali speakers available

0800 279 5434 (office hours)  
**24-hour domestic violence national helpline**

0808 2000 247  
**Haven Whitechapel (sexual assault referral centre)**

7247 4787  
**Karma Nirvana (Honour Network Helpline)**

0800 5999 247  
**Broken Rainbow (LGBT domestic violence)**  
0845 260 4460  
**Black Women's Health & Family Support**  
8980 3503  
**Rights of Women**

(legal advice)  
7251 6577

**Victim Support Line**  
0845 30 30 900  
**Victim Support Tower Hamlets**

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**NSPCC Child Protection Helpline**  
0800 800 5000  
**Childline**  
0800 1111  
**Shelterline**  
0808 800 4444  
**Respect (for perpetrators)**  
0845 122 8609

**Reunite (advice about child abduction)**

0116 2556 234  
**Men's Advice Helpline**  
0808 8010 327  
**Samaritans**  
08457 909090

**Tower Hamlets Mediation Service offers confidential and impartial advice with neighbour conflict**  
Free service for council tenants and leaseholders. 7702 8305

**Trading standards**  
Consumer Direct: 08454 040506

### Walk-in services

#### One Stop Shops

**Bethnal Green** – 1 Rushmead, off Bethnal Green Road, E2  
**Bow & North Poplar** – John Onslow House, 1 Ewart Place, E3  
**South Poplar** – 15 Market Square, Chrisp Street, E14  
**Stepney & Wapping** – Idea Store Watney Market, 260 Commercial Road, E1.  
**Open Mon-Fri, 9am, doors close at 4.30pm. Sat, 9am, doors close 12.30pm at Rushmead and Idea Store Watney Market only.**

### Idea Stores

**Bow** – Gladstone Place, E3.  
**Canary Wharf** – Churchill Place, Canary Wharf, E14.  
**Chrisp Street** – Vesey Path, E14.  
**Whitechapel** – 321 Whitechapel Road, E1. 7364 4332  
**Watney Market** – Commercial E1. 7364 4332  
All open: Mon to Thurs, 9am-9pm; Fri, 9am-6pm; Sat, 9am-5pm. Sundays – Bow and Chrisp Street open, 10am-4pm; Whitechapel, 11am-5pm; and Canary Wharf, 12-6pm.

### Libraries

**Bethnal Green** – Cambridge Heath Road, E2. 8980 3902  
**Cubitt Town** – Strattondale Street, E14. 7987 3152  
All open: Mon, Tues, Weds & Fri, 10am-6pm; Thurs, 10am-8pm; Sat, 9am-5pm.  
**Local History Library and Archives** – 277 Bancroft Road, E1. Open Tues, 10am-5pm; Weds, 9am-5pm; Thurs, 9am-8pm; Sat (1st & 3rd of the month), 9am-5pm.  
7364 1290; email [localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

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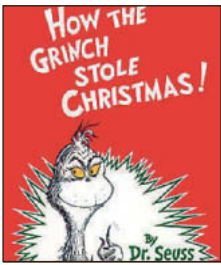
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Tears often flow, what it meant to lose you both no one will ever know.  
Not a day goes by without thinking of you.  
Love you and miss you so very much.*

Pat (Mum) Suzanne, Ian, Lynne, Megan, Emily and all the Family.





## The Dr calls

Enjoy festive storytime for ages up to 11 at Idea Store Canary Wharf.

DETAILS BELOW



## German artists at the Espacio

Artists showing at the Espacio Gallery include Marie Athenstaedt, Elizabeth Hepworth, Jan Kunze, Danny Linwerk, Ioannis Malegiannakis and Vivien Schlecht.

SEE BELOW

## Out & about guide

### What's on where this week

#### Cinema

##### **Never Mind the Baubles: Hated – GG Allin and the Murder Junkies**

This controversial documentary mixes concert footage and interviews with Allin and his wider circle. Christened Jesus Christ by his parents, Allin suffered an abusive upbringing and a chaotic adolescence, finally finding expression in the hardcore punk scene. Weds, Dec 16. 8.45pm. £9.50/£7.50 members/£8.50 concessions plus 60p booking fee. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2. 0845 120 7527 [www.barbican.org.uk](http://www.barbican.org.uk)

#### Events

##### **Santa's Grotto**

Children can visit Santa in his Jubilee Place grotto in the lead-up to Christmas. Booking is not required, but allow plenty of time to avoid disappointment. Sat-Tues, Dec 19-24. 11am-5pm. Canary Wharf, 1 Canada Square, E14. 7418 2000 [www.canarywharf.com](http://www.canarywharf.com)

##### **Barbican Christmas Market**

Unique gifts and stocking fillers by aspiring artisans, cult craftspeople and local designers. Search for one-off presents, jewellery, prints and

ceramics, as you tuck in to mulled wine and mince pies. Fri-Sun, Dec 18-20. 12-8.30pm. Foyer, Level G, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2. 7638 8891

##### **How the Grinch Stole Christmas by Dr Seuss**

Zany festive classic, for ages up to 11. Mon-Fri, Dec 14-18. 3.30-4pm. Idea Store Canary Wharf, Churchill Place, E14. 7364 4332

#### Exhibitions

##### **Delta: Dresden Academy of Fine Arts**

Work by a group of German artists, mostly in oils, but with other visual approaches. Until Sun, Dec 20. Contact gallery for times. Espacio Gallery, 159 Bethnal Green Road, E2. 07815 319073

##### **Window Galleries: Judith Peterhoff**

Collections inspired by the body and medicine. Until Fri, Jan 1, 2016. Free. Canary Wharf, Jubilee Walk, Canada Place, E14. [www.judithpeterhoff.com](http://www.judithpeterhoff.com)

#### Music

##### **JS Bach Christmas Oratorio BWV248 (Parts I, III, V, VI)**

Solomon's Knot present JS Bach's seasonal masterpiece as never heard before. Without a

conductor, the group perform from memory, adding subtle dramatisations throughout. Tues, Dec 15. 7.30pm. £25/£18/£10/£5. St Leonard's Church, 119 Shoreditch High Street, E1. [www.spitalfieldsmusic.org.uk/whats-on/winter-festival-2015/christmas-oratorio/](http://www.spitalfieldsmusic.org.uk/whats-on/winter-festival-2015/christmas-oratorio/)

##### **Harmony Winter Concert**

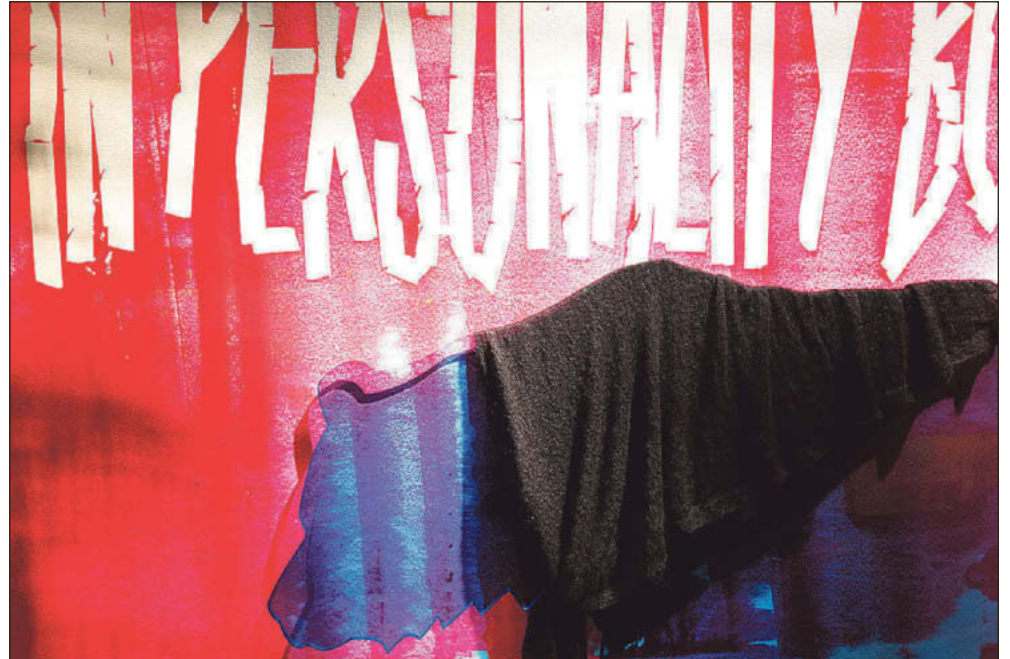
All proceeds from this evening of winter magic and heart-warming harmonies will go directly to building shelters in the Calais Jungle. Tues, Dec 15. 7.30pm. £8 on door, £6.50 Paypal. Brady Arts and Community Centre, 192-196 Hanbury Street, E1. 7364 7900 [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com)

##### **Christmas Concert**

From the East London Community Band. Fri, Dec 18. 7pm. Free entry. St Dunstan's Church, Stepney Green, E1. [www.elcb.org](http://www.elcb.org)

##### **Sing Tower Hamlets Christmas Concert**

All proceeds go to Growth Night Shelter, an initiative by churches in Tower Hamlets. Weds, Dec 16. 8pm. £8/£6 in advance. St Peter's Bethnal Green, St Peter's Close, E2. [www.singtowerhamlets.com](http://www.singtowerhamlets.com) [singtowerhamletstickets@gmail.com](mailto:singtowerhamletstickets@gmail.com)



##### **The Forever Loop**

Artist Eddie Peake combines live performance with sculpture, video installation and painting to create this Curve commission – a choreographed, looped performance that weaves in and out of past shows, including a home movie from Eddie's childhood. Set against a backdrop of large-scale installations from maze-like, plastered wall structures that frame the viewer and the performer. The exhibition features nudity, as well as some explicit imagery and strong language. Parental guidance advised. No unaccompanied children aged 14 and under. Until Thursday, January 10. Free. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2. 7638 8891

#### Social

##### **3 Bees Café**

Healthy vegetarian and fish dish for £3. Tuesdays, 4-8pm. Kingsley Hall Community Centre, Powis Road, E3. 07501 468 193

##### **Bingo**

Mons 6.45-9pm. Tredegar Community Centre, 333 Morville Street, E3. 07884 168176

##### **Birchfield OAPs club**

Mon-Fri, 7-9.30pm; Weds, 1-4pm. 50 Saltwell Street, E14.

##### **Golden Ladies**

Pensioners group for bingo and social. Weds, 2-4pm. Isle of Dogs Bowls Club, Millwall Park, E14. 7987 6824

##### **Globe Town bingo club**

Pensioners group with

bingo and social activities. Thursdays, doors open 12pm. Bingo, 2-4pm. Globe Town Community Centre, Bullards Place, E2. 07939 965141

##### **Little Spitz' under-5s playgroup**

Weds, 10am-12pm, 50p. Tours and stories. Spitalfields City Farm, Buxton Street, E1. 7247 8762

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## A magical place to ice skate

During the Second World War, the Tower of London's dry moat was used for growing fruit and vegetables. Throughout winter, part of it is transformed into an ice rink with a historic view.

[WWW.HRP.ORG.UK/TOWER-OF-LONDON](http://WWW.HRP.ORG.UK/TOWER-OF-LONDON)



## Light the night

Young residents made animal lanterns for the Lincoln light parade.

**SEE BELOW**

### Out & About

# Carnival lights up the Lincoln

BY JACQUELINE HARTHILL

**RESIDENTS of the Lincoln Estate left a trail of light, colour and sound through the streets when they took part in a night carnival.**

Lighting up the Lincoln was organised by Fern Street Settlement, All Hallows Bow Church and Eden Bow Youth Project on Saturday, November 28.

More than 120 people from the Bow estate worked to create animal lanterns out of natural materials.

The carnival's theme was Noah's Ark and lantern-makers included children, young people and families.

Organisers Sara Brayford, from Fern Street Settlement, and Alex Hall, from Eden Bow

Youth Project, said: "The creativity people showed in building their lanterns this year was just amazing.

"We were blown away by the joyful spirit of the parade and the way it brought people together."

The event was supported by the Metropolitan Police, with officers helping to steward the parade and joining in the after-party at All Hallows Bow Church.

Back in the warm, paraders enjoyed getting to know each other over festive hot drinks, crafts and games.

For more information on activities for families, children and young people at the Fern Street Settlement and Eden Bow, visit [www.fernstreet.org.uk](http://www.fernstreet.org.uk) or email [bow@eden-network.org.uk](mailto:bow@eden-network.org.uk)



Residents created animal lanterns for the Noah's Ark-themed parade

### News in brief

#### Jumpin' jazz night

CLARINETIST, saxophonist, pianist, singer and curator Ewan Bleach will take you back to the Golden Era of Jazz on Thursday, December 17.

Showcasing the jazz sounds of the 1920s and 1930s, Ewan will perform solo and as part of several jazz outfits including Man Overboard, The Basin Street Brawlers, The Old Hat Jazz Band, The Dakota Jim Band and The Cable Street Rag Band.

There is a strict 'no dress code' and the night will see talented locals singing from the audience as a mix of ages throw themselves around an imagined dance floor.

The Golden Era of Jazz takes place from 7-11pm at Jamboree, Cable Street Studios Courtyard, 566 Cable Street, E1. Tickets cost £5 on the door. Call 7791 5659.

#### Farewell club night

SINK the Pink will be saying ta-ta to the Bethnal Green Working Men's Club as the hedonistic club night has its Last Hurrah.

Sink the Pink is the brainchild of two friends, Amy Zing and Glyn Famous, aka Donatella and Lagerfeld. The duo have been performing at the club for five years but will be holding court for the last time on Saturday, December 19.

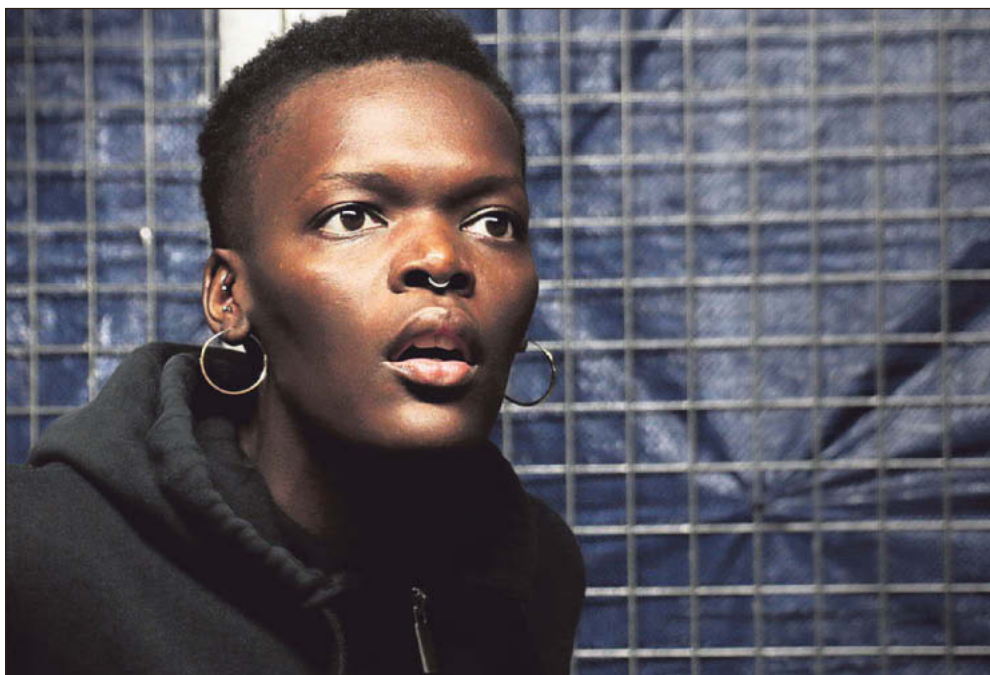
The pair set out to create "the most perfect house party imaginable". It has now become an internationally renowned club night, famous for two things: glitter – everything and everyone is coated in it – and 'trannies', who arrive with their prepared routines and home-made costumes.

If you want to pop along to the Last Hurrah, arrive by 8pm to ensure that you can join the crew as they raise a glass and say goodbye to the end of an era.

Bethnal Green Working Men's Club is at 42-44 Pollard Row, E2.

For more details, call 7739 7170 or email [info@sinkthepink.co.uk](mailto:info@sinkthepink.co.uk)

Sink the Pink, the Last Hurrah, is on Saturday, December 19 from 8pm. Go to [www.sinkthepink.co.uk](http://www.sinkthepink.co.uk)



A LOCAL young filmmaker is looking for funding to shine a light on our image-based society. Timothy Moorhouse, 24, has employed professional actors from Tower Hamlets and across London to produce an adaptation of the Oscar Wilde short story, *The Birthday of the Infanta*. His film will see Katy, a gardener, struggle with being rejected for having no skills, not being "smart enough" and being bullied for not being "beautiful". Tim wanted to tell her story and, through doing so, spark conversations on topics that other people can relate to. "The story is all about the negative aspect of a narcissistic culture and over-excess," he said. The project will only be funded if it raises £3,000 by Thursday, December 24; it has currently raised £2,004 from 55 backers.

You can donate anything between £2 and £1,000 and every donation of £2 or more will be rewarded with an exclusive gift related to the film. If all the money isn't raised by the 24th, monies will be refunded. To donate, users need to register as a Kickstarter member with all payments made by credit or debit card. Donations can be made at [www.tbti.uk](http://www.tbti.uk)

Above: Sheila Atim, in a still from Timothy Moorhouse's film.



#### GRAB your winter woollies and a steadying hand and head off to the Tower of London for an evening of ice skating.

Located in the dry moat, the ice rink offers a stunning historical setting along with views of the borough's ancient fortress.

Sessions last for an hour and wheelchairs are welcome on the ice, except during the last

session of the day. To warm up and refresh yourself after your session, you can grab a bite to eat at the Ice Bar and Café, which serves a selection of winter drinks and festive snacks.

The Tower of London is at Tower Hill, EC3.

To check skating times and prices, go to [www.toweroflondonicerink.com](http://www.toweroflondonicerink.com) or call 8241 9818.



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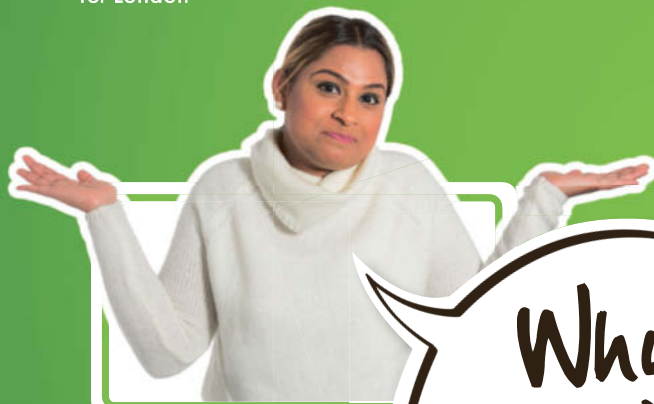


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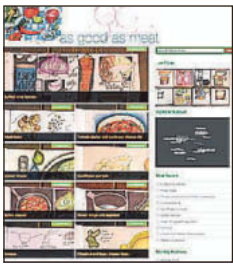
Black bag = Black bin = Rubbish

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Keep it clean  
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right!







## Penny's picks are As Good As Meat

Vegetarian blogger Penny Wilson's kids have never eaten meat and have no desire to. "We don't much care what other people eat, so long as we are left to enjoy our food," she says.

[WWW.ASGOODASMEAT.COM](http://WWW.ASGOODASMEAT.COM)

## Boost your business

Restaurant reviews are a popular feature of East End Life. If you would like to advertise on this page,

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Eating out, eating in

# French classics and fantastic fish dishes

BY GORDON BLUE

**UNDER P in my little black book is Palmers: a neighbourhood stalwart ten minutes away from home where you're guaranteed an excellent supper.**

Situated on the ground floor of a reasonably new development, the interior feels modern yet refreshingly homely.

We were genially seated by one of the sons of the father/sons ownership and settled on a crisp glass of Viognier to get us in the mood.

The menu is full of French classics, with a special emphasis on fish.

We settled down for some stunning starters. My scallops and chorizo were sublime, served on a creamy bed of cauliflower purée.

The scallops were very large, perfectly cooked and matched well with my wine.

The Silver Fox tucked into a generous bouillabaisse-style soup, a sort of fish stew, replete with langoustine-sized prawns and hearty with fish fillets.



**Palmers is a treat for lovers of fish**

The promised rouille and crouton didn't materialise, but the depth of flavour and size left us without complaint.

Predictably, I plumped for the whole sea bass with salsa verde sauce as a main course.

There is nothing more luxurious in my eyes than a whole fish to oneself. And the salsa verde was sharp and refreshing,

cutting through the creaminess of the fish flesh.

The Fox went for Toulouse sausages and mash, a dish where you can't go far wrong but the devil is in the detail.

The mash was creamy with butter and perfectly seasoned; the gravy rich, dark and devilish to the last greedy mouthful.

We passed on desserts,

sated and happy as sandboys.

What a treat to have this quality of food on our doorstep

All the fish is sourced from Billingsgate and veg from new Spitalfields market.

Two ate two courses, with wine for less than £70 in total.

■ **Palmers restaurant is at 38 Roman Road, E2.**

**Tel: 8980 5590**

## We wish you a veggie Christmas

**ALMOST the first question that a vegetarian gets asked is: "What do you do for Christmas dinner?"**

For me, the best bits of Christmas dinner are the roast potatoes, sprouts, parsnips, good mushroom gravy and

home made cranberry sauce. I want something light, with traditional Christmassy flavours that match the rest of the meal.

This year, I have decided to make a shallow open pie, in an 8ins x 10ins dish.

Season's eatings!

### Mushroom & chestnut filo pie – **serves 3**

#### Ingredients

5 leaves of filo pastry

Lime juice

1 red onion

Knob of butter

6 mushrooms

Half a packet dried chestnuts

1 tsp mixed spice

Sprinkle of sage and thyme

1 tsp tamarind paste

1 tsp lemon juice

Crushed star anise

Handful roasted cashew nuts

#### Method

1. Line the dish with greaseproof paper and lay in the filo leaves. Frill out like petals, paint the base with lime juice and pop in a hot oven to set the pastry. Set aside to cool.

2. Finely dice one half the onion, cut the other half into thin rings.

3. Melt the butter in a frying pan and cook the diced onions.

4. Dice the mushrooms and add to the pan with the sage and thyme, and cook until softened.

5. Add the chestnuts, chopped, a little more butter and the mixed spice. Cook for a few mo-

ments then add water to reach halfway up the ingredients and the tamarind. Stir and let cook very gently until the ingredients are almost indistinguishable.

6. Spoon into the filo and spread evenly. Add the lemon juice to the pan, swirl to gather the tasty bits, then drizzle over the mixture.

7. Fry the onion rings in a little butter with star anise. Add a handful of crushed cashews and toast until bronze.

8. Place onion rings on the mixture in the pie and sprinkle over the nuts. Pop in a medium oven for 15 mins.

## Calling all restaurants, cafés and gastro pubs!

**There is only 1 edition of East End Life until Christmas!!!**

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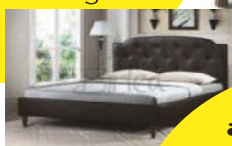
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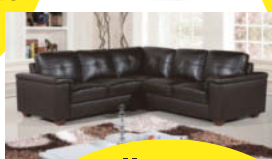
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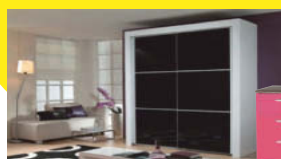


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# Five ways you can help homeless people in Tower Hamlets this Christmas



Rough sleeping and homelessness is an issue up and down the country. The amount of people sleeping rough in Tower Hamlets is low due to the hard work of outreach and other services both in and out the council. Despite this, more work needs to be done.

**Here are a few tips on how you can help this Christmas.**

## 1 Keep the Streetlink website loaded on your phone

Streetlink is a website that enables the public to alert councils about people sleeping rough. This is the first step that someone can take to ensure that rough sleepers are connected to local services and get the support that is available.

You can also download the Streetlink app from the iTunes app store.

## 2 If not, let Tower Hamlets Council know

Make sure you are aware of our homelessness and housing options services. Find out more on our website.

If someone is homeless or sleeping rough, they can contact us to find out what housing options are available to them. Once in touch with us, they can access useful help and advice.

## 3 Invest money into charities that deal with homelessness

It might seem controversial but pressing a pound into the hand of a homeless person for them to buy a hot drink won't help them. Rough sleepers are among the most excluded people in society. Many have been in care as children or in prison as adults. They often suffer with mental and physical health issues. Money won't fix these problems.

It's better to donate to charities like Providence Row, Thames Reach, and bigger national charities like Shelter or Crisis. They all campaign with the government to explore ways of alleviating these issues. They also support homeless people – training them for work, providing resource centres, housing and feeding them. Your money will go further with these charities.

## 4 Volunteer your time and help people suffering homelessness

How you can help depends very much on your experience. Just contact one of the homeless charities and offer your time. You may have specific skills that can be used but often it is about just being there.

Whatever you want to do, your contribution can have a real impact on the people who may be facing sleeping on the streets.

Contact Thames Reach or Providence Row to find out how you can help locally.

## 5 Don't demonise these people! This could happen to anyone

The people sleeping rough are no different to anyone else. They've just had a hard time in their lives and are extremely vulnerable. Demonising them doesn't help.

Homeless Link have a page full of research which shows what is happening on the ground, and identifies what is working and what isn't when it comes to tackling homelessness.

## SINGLE HOMELESSNESS in Tower Hamlets\*

**1,889**

In total, 1,889 single people experienced homelessness



Every **52** minutes someone in the single adult population in Tower Hamlets has an experience of homelessness which they report to the council.



**66.2%**  
were men



**33.8%**  
were women

The **largest** group of single adults experiencing homelessness were Asian-Bangladeshi. **714** were reported homeless



**4.5%** were over  
61 years old

**27.1%** were  
aged 26 to 35

The second largest group experiencing homelessness defined themselves as English **461** people in total

\* These are figures based on 2014/15 numbers.

**For more information on homelessness in Tower Hamlets, visit:**  
<http://goo.gl/wAh97Y>



# HAVE YOUR SAY ON SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Tower Hamlets Council is asking for your views on its school admission arrangements for 2017/18. The aim is to ensure that school admissions are fair and that as many parents as possible secure a place for their child at one of their preferred schools.

The council is holding a consultation event to seek the views of the public. Head down to Idea Store Whitechapel on Thursday, December 17 from 4pm to 6pm to have your say in person.

The proposed arrangements for school admissions for 2017/18 school year can be found at:

[http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ignl/council\\_and\\_democracy/consultations/school\\_admissions\\_consultation.aspx](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ignl/council_and_democracy/consultations/school_admissions_consultation.aspx)

Please tell the council what you think by completing the online questionnaire.

You can also request a paper copy from Jebin Syeda on 020 7364 2070 or [Jebin.syeda@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:Jebin.syeda@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

The consultation ends on December 31, 2015.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL ADVERTISERS

We would like to remind you that from **11 January 2016**, East End Life will be published fortnightly and our booking deadlines and copy deadlines will be changing.

PUBLICATION DATES 2016	BOOKING DEADLINES		COPY DEADLINES
11 January	ROP/Display, Training/Recruitment	22 Dec at midday	4 Jan at midday
	Public Notices	5 Jan at midday	6 Jan at midday
25 January	ROP/Display, Training/Recruitment	15 Jan at midday	18 Jan at midday
	Public Notices	19 Jan at midday	20 Jan at midday
8 February	ROP/Display, Training/Recruitment	29 Jan at midday	1 Feb at midday
	Public Notices	2 Feb at midday	3 Feb at midday
22 February	ROP/Display, Training/Recruitment	12 Feb at midday	15 Feb at midday
	Public Notices	16 Feb at midday	17 Feb at midday
7 March	ROP/Display, Training/Recruitment	26 Feb at midday	29 Feb at midday
	Public Notices	1 March at midday	2 March at midday
21 March	ROP/Display, Training/Recruitment	11 March at midday	14 March at midday
	Public Notices	15 March at midday	16 March at midday

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- Housekeeping team members

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- ➔ ability to work alone and a team player
- ➔ approachable and friendly
- ➔ good organisational and time management skills
- ➔ basic computer skills

To register your interest you must be a resident of Tower Hamlets.

**HOTEL  
OPPORTUNITIES**

**Deadline to apply Friday 8 January 2016 - 12 noon**

Please call **020 7364 0626** and leave your details on the answer machine, quote: **HUB1**



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£9.15 per hour for 8 to 10 hours a week -  
two to three hours a day, usually at weekends  
and some weekday evenings.

You can download the application pack from  
[www.real.org.uk/AW126](http://www.real.org.uk/AW126) or write to  
Ref. AW126 Real, 1st Floor Jack Dash House,  
2 Lawn House Close, London E14 9YQ

**Closing date: 5pm Monday 4 January 2016**  
**Interviews: Early January**

## LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

### ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14 (1)

### TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC – STEPNEY GREEN E1

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that the Council of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets proposes to make an Order, which will prohibit vehicular traffic from entering, stopping or proceeding the following temporary prohibition:

**Location:** Stepney Green between junctions outside 114 Stepney Green and outside flats 1 - 18 Stepney Green;

**Reason:** To allow essential works to be carried out on the public highway by Centercomms Limited on behalf of Openreach Telecommunications;

**Alternative Route:** For vehicular traffic will be via the southern arm of Stepney Green, the western arm of Stepney Green and the northern arm of Stepney Green;

**Period:** From Monday 11th January 2016 to Friday 15th January 2016.

Please refer any queries regard-

ing the above traffic restriction to David Pryce, Network Coordinator, Clean, Green and Highways on 020 7364 6898 or email, david.pryce@towerhamlets.gov.uk

**Dated: 14th December 2015**

**SIMON BAXTER  
INTERIM SERVICE HEAD  
PUBLIC REALM  
MULBERRY PLACE  
5 CLOVE CRESCENT  
LONDON E14 2BG**

## LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

### THE TOWER HAMLETS (B3 PARKING PLACES) (NO.1) ORDER 2015 (AMENDMENT NO.7) ORDER 2015

### THE TOWER HAMLETS (WAITING AND LOADING) (NO.1) ORDER 2015 (AMENDMENT NO.10) ORDER 2015

### THE TOWER HAMLETS (LOADING BAYS) (NO.1) ORDER 2015 (AMENDMENT NO.2) ORDER 2015

**1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Council of the London

Borough of Tower Hamlets on 14 December 2015 made the above-mentioned Orders under the relevant sections of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended by Section 5 of the Local Government Act 1985 and the Traffic Management Act 2004.

2. The general effect of the Orders would be to in:

a) **Blair Street (South side (outside 1 to 24 Helen Mackay House))** - remove three Resident Parking spaces and replace it with Double Yellow Line.

b) **Walter Street** - to upgrade the Single Yellow Lines to Double Yellow Lines due to emergency access requirements.

c) **Hanbury Street (Outside no. 107 to 111)** - To convert the existing Goods Loading Bay into a General Use Loading Bay to operate Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Sunday 8.30am to 2pm with maximum stay of 20 minutes and no return within 1 hour.

d) **Poplar High Street** -

i) (Outside no.244 and 258) - To upgrade the Single Yellow Line to Double Yellow Line

ii) (Between no. 246 and 256) - To upgrade the Sin-

gle Yellow Line to Double Yellow Line with 'At Any Time' Loading Restriction.

3. The Regulations, fees and usual exemptions imposed by the governing Traffic Management Orders would apply to the proposals referred to in paragraph 2 above.

4. A copy of each of the proposed Orders and all relevant documents can be inspected, by prior appointment, at the offices of the at the Parking Services Offices, 585-593 Commercial Road, London E1 0HJ (0207-364 6949), during normal office hours on Monday to Friday inclusive until the expiration of a period of 21 days from the date on which this notice is published.

5. Any person desiring to comment on or object to any of the proposed Orders should send a statement in writing or Email: [Parking.development@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:Parking.development@towerhamlets.gov.uk) of their objection and the grounds thereof, to the above address within the aforementioned period of 21 days.

**Dated: 14th December 2015**

**SIMON BAXTER  
SERVICE HEAD  
PUBLIC REALM**

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**Chris on 7364 4994**

**Fatima on 7364 4623**

**Sharan on 7364 4061**

**Why you should read  
Public & Legal notices...**

These notices inform the public of planning act notices from roads to buildings as well as licensing act notices, insolvency acts, notices to creditors, missing beneficiaries etc.



## LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

### PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990, SECTIONS 10, 67 AND 73

APPLICATIONS FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT AND APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD IN THE OPINION OF THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF AN AREA DESIGNATED AS A CONSERVATION AREA OR WOULD AFFECT THE SETTING OF A LISTED BUILDING.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS IS CONSIDERING THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS:

**Fieldgate Mansions, 21-22 Romford Street, London** PA/15/03246  
T1-T8: 8 x Ash - Crown reduce by 2-3m.

**Flat 12, The Cloisters, 145 Commercial Street, London, E1 6EB** PA/15/03275  
Installation of internal secondary glazing to 4 existing sash windows.

**Unit 304, Metropolitan Wharf Building, 70 Wapping Wall, London, E1W 3SS** PA/15/03215  
To install internal demountable partitions of glass and plasterboard to alter space into usable space for the applicant's business purposes. There will be no impact to external aspects or any other aspect than the Unit named.

**4, Trinity Green, Mile End Road, London, E1 4TS** PA/15/03257  
Internal alterations for conversion of existing loft space and installation of access stair.

**7 -10 Vine Court, London, E1 1JH** PA/15/02821  
Retrospective consent for retention of 2no. residential studio flats (use class C3). Proposed single-storey front extension at 8-10 Vine court to existing commercial premises.

**25B Vyner Street, London, E2 9DG** PA/15/03269  
Upgrade of the existing facade including cleaning, replacement windows and partial re cladding. Relocation of entrance doors at ground floor. Extension of the existing terrace usage on 2nd floor level. Construction of a new balcony at first floor level overhanging refuse storage area. Construction of new plant enclosure on part of 1st floor roof. [REVISED PROPOSAL]

**Bridge House, Jamestown Harbour Estate and Lancaster Drive , London** PA/15/02891  
Erection of Electronically controlled security gates for vehicular and pedestrian access

**45 Roman Road, London, E2 0HU** PA/15/03287  
Retrospective consent for a new shopfront change incorporating new timber frame, fixed glass, new entry door and servery window to the street front.

**Flat 23, Henley House, Swanfield Street, London, E2 7JA** PA/15/03332  
Relocate boiler flue

**196A & B Old Ford Road, London, E2 9PT** PA/15/03297  
Conversion and extension of existing building into 4x 1 bedroom flats.

**Land at rear of 48 to 52 Grove Road, London** PA/15/02552  
Proposed one 1x bedroom flat.

**223 Whitechapel Road, London, E1 1DB** PA/15/01524  
Retrospective application for conversion of snooker club into 6 self contained flats - 3x1 bed, 2x2 bed and 1x3 bed.

**Flat 10, 23 Wheler Street, London, E1 6NR** PA/15/03262  
Application for variation of condition no. 2 (Approved Plans) of planning permission dated 11/11/2015, ref: PA/15/02388.

**42B Kenilworth Road, London, E3 5RJ** PA/15/03217  
Erection of single storey roof extension.

**The following are householder applications and in the event of an appeal against a refusal of planning permission, which is to be dealt with on the basis of representations in writing, any representations made about these applications will be sent to the secretary of state, and there will be no further opportunity to comment at appeal stage.**

**86 Clinton Road, London, E3 4QU** PA/15/03294  
Erection of rear side infill extension.

**37 Coborn Road, London, E3 2DA** PA/15/03277 & PA/15/03278  
Single storey conservatory, extension to the lower ground floor rear of property.

Copies of the applications and plans may be inspected between the hours of 9am-1pm, Monday to Friday at the Planning Department, Mulberry Place, Clove Crescent, London, E14 2BG. The information will also be available on the Council's web site at [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk). If you respond by email, please tell us your postal address.

Any person who wishes to make representations relating to any of these applications should do so, in writing, within a period of 21 days from the date of publication of this notice to the Development Control Manager at the above address.

Dated: 14th December 2015

**OWEN WHALLEY**  
Head of Planning and Building Control



**Take Notice of**  
**Public Notices**  
**Make sure you know what's going on in your neighbourhood.**

#### LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

**Publication of London Borough of Tower Hamlets "Our Borough, Our Plan: A New Local Plan First Steps" Local Plan consultation document along with an accompanying draft Sustainability Appraisal scoping report and Equality Analysis**

The Council would like to invite you to have your say on our first stage of consultation for a new Local Plan. The new Local Plan will set out a vision, strategic priorities and a planning policy framework to guide and manage development in the borough for the next 10 to 15 years, in line with the planning policy requirements set out by national and regional government. This consultation aims to identify the challenges facing the borough and how we can best approach these through our planning policies. It is seeking your comments on our proposed approaches and suggestions for other policy areas that might be considered.

**The public consultation will run from 14th December 2015 until 8th February 2016.**

A copy of the consultation document, draft Sustainability Appraisal scoping report and Equality Analysis can be viewed online at the Council's website at [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/localplan) and can also be viewed free of charge at the following locations during normal opening hours:

- **Town Hall (Reception)**, Mulberry Place, Clove Crescent, E14 2BG
- **Idea Store Bow**, 1 Gladstone Place, Roman Road, Bow, E3 5ES
- **Idea Store Canary Wharf**, Churchill Place, E14 5RB
- **Idea Store Chrisp Street**, 1 Vesey Path East India Dock Road, E14 6BT
- **Idea Store Whitechapel**, 321 Whitechapel Road, E1 1BU
- **Idea Store Watney Market**, Watney Market, E1 2FB
- **Bethnal Green Library**, Cambridge Heath Rd, London E2 0HL
- **Cubitt Town Library**, Strattondale Street, E14 3HG
- **Local History & Archives Library**, 277 Bancroft Road, E1 4DQ

The Council will also be holding public consultation drop in events around the borough on the following dates at:

- Thursday 14th Jan 2016, 11:30-14:30: **Idea Store, Chrisp Street**
- Saturday 16th Jan 2016, 10:00-13:00: **V & A Museum of Childhood (Bethnal Green)**
- Thursday 21st Jan 2016, 17:30-20:30: **Alpha Grove Community Centre (Isle of Dogs)**
- Thursday 28th Jan 2016, 17:30-20:30: **Idea Store, Whitechapel**
- Saturday 30th Jan 2016, 10:00-13:00: **Idea Store, Bow**

Comments can be made to the Council in the following ways:

Online: [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/localplan)  
E-mailed to: [planmaking@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:planmaking@towerhamlets.gov.uk)  
By post to: FREEPOST  
Our Borough, Our Plan Consultation  
D&R Strategic Planning  
London Borough of Tower Hamlets  
PO BOX 55739  
London  
E14 1BY

For further information, please contact the Strategic Planning – Plan Making team on **0207 364 5009** or [planmaking@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:planmaking@towerhamlets.gov.uk)





## LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

## TOWN &amp; COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (AS AMENDED)

## TOWN &amp; COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2011 (AS AMENDED) - REGULATION 22

## NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 15(3) OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION ACCOMPANIED BY AN ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Reference: PA/14/03594 Application received: 16th December 2014

## PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF LAND AT:

Hercules Wharf Castle Wharf And Union Wharf, Orchard Place, London, E14

**PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:** Demolition of existing buildings at Hercules Wharf, Union Wharf and Castle Wharf and erection of 16 blocks (A-M) ranging in height from three-storeys up to 30 storeys (100m) (plus basement) providing 834 residential units; Retail / Employment Space (Class A1 – A4, B1, D1); Management Offices (Class B1) and Education Space (Class D1); car parking spaces; bicycle parking spaces; hard and soft landscaping works including to Orchard Dry Dock and the repair and replacement of the river wall.

**Listed Building Consent application** - Works to listed structures including repairs to 19th century river wall in eastern section of Union Wharf; restoration of the caisson and brick piers, and alteration of the surface of the in filled Orchard Dry Dock in connection with the use of the dry docks as part of public landscaping. Works to curtilage structures including landscaping works around bollards; oil tank repaired and remodelled and section of 19th century wall on to Orchard Place to be demolished with bricks salvaged where possible to be reused in detailed landscape design.

## The application is accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment

**Amended proposal:** A reduction of storeys to Blocks B, C, E, F and J, a reduction in number of residential units to 804, an increase in commercial floorspace, alterations to the mix of proposed residential units including a reduction in studio and one bed units and an increase in 3 and 4 bed units. Further integration of door step play space and mitigation measures in relation to Orchard Wharf including the change of use of three town houses in Block M from residential to commercial floor space and the addition of panels to the south and south-west balcony sides on Blocks J and K.

I give notice that Rolfe Judd Planning on behalf of Clearstorm Ltd has submitted 'further information' supplementing the Environmental Statement in relation to the above application, to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London E14 2BG.

The Environmental Statement and 'further information' is available for viewing by members of the public at all reasonable hours at the Council offices (address as below), and also on the Council's web site at [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk). The Council offices are open for the public - Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm. The latest date that this will be available for inspection will be: 4th January 2016.

Copies of the 'further information' may be obtained at a charge from the Council offices (address as below) - copies may be obtained so long as stocks last. The charge for copies is provided on the Council's website: [http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgs/451-500/485\\_planning\\_applications/planning\\_application\\_fees\\_and.aspx](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgs/451-500/485_planning_applications/planning_application_fees_and.aspx)

Any person who wishes to make representations regarding the application and the additional information should write to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Planning Service at Development & Renewal, Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London E14 2BG within 21 days beginning with the date of this notice.

Dated: 14th December 2015

OWEN WHALLEY

Service Head – Planning and Building Control

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS  
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

The London Borough of Tower Hamlets hereby gives notice that it has made an Order under Section 247 of the above Act entitled "The Stopping up of Highways (London Borough of Tower Hamlets Ditchburn Street and land south of Ditchburn Street, Prestage Way, Scouler Street and Robin Hood Gardens Estate, London) Order 2015"; to authorise the stopping up of the areas described in the Schedule of public highway shown on the plan attached to the Order.

The Order is made to enable the development to be carried out in accordance with the planning permission granted under Part III of the Act to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and the Homes and Communities Agency by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets on 30 March 2012 under reference PA/12/0001.

Copies of the Order and relevant plan may be inspected by any person at the Council's offices: Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London, E14 2BG and may be seen at all reasonable hours. Please contact RoseMarie Richards on 020 7364 6926 regarding any queries or to arrange an inspection.

Any person aggrieved by the Order or desiring to question the validity thereof, or any provision contained therein, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the above Act or that any regulation made thereunder has not been complied with in relation to the Order may, within 6 weeks of 14 December 2015, apply to the High Court for the suspension or quashing of the Order or of any provision contained therein.

Dated: 14 December 2015

PAUL BUCKENHAM  
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

## THE SCHEDULE

## "Description of Highway to be stopped up"

## Phase 1b

1. The entire length of Ditchburn Street, being of an irregular shape measuring approximately 163.91 metres long and 11.65 metres wide shown hatched and labelled "Phase 1b" on the attached plan.
2. All unnamed highways, paths, footways or other highway rights that exist or have been acquired in the area of hard standing, pavement and bus turnaround area lying to the south of Ditchburn Street bounded by Prestons Road, Prestage Way, and the Blackwall DLR Station being of an irregular shape and measuring approximately 150 metres long and between 5 and 41 metres wide, shown stippled and labelled "Phase 1b" on the attached plan.

## Phase 2

3. All unnamed highways, paths, footways or other highway rights that exist or have been acquired in the area of hard standing, garage and forecourt area providing route along the western side of Robin Hood Gardens west, parallel with Cotton Street being of an irregular shape and measuring approximately 154 metres long and between 8 and 14 metres wide, shown in square even stippling and labelled "Phase 2" on the attached plan.
4. All unnamed highways, paths, footways or other highway rights that exist or have been acquired in the Millennium Green and adjoining Council owned land within the Robin Hood Gardens Estate being of an irregular shape and measuring approximately 166 metres long and between 29 and 75 metres wide, shown in square even stippling and labelled "Phase 2" on the attached plan.

## Phase 3

5. All unnamed highways, paths, footways or other highway rights that exist or have been acquired in the area of hard standing, garage and forecourt area along the eastern side of Robin Hood Gardens East Parallel with Robin Hood Lane being of an irregular shape and measuring approximately 166 metres long and between 24 and 48 metres wide, shown with small stippling and labelled "Phase 3" on the attached plan.
6. All unnamed highways, paths, footways or other highway rights that exist or have been acquired in the Millennium Green and adjoining Council owned land within the Robin Hood Gardens Estate being of an irregular shape and measuring approximately 122 metres long and between 7 and 20 metres wide, shown with small stippling and labelled "Phase 3" on the attached plan.

## Phase 4

7. The entire length of Prestage Way measuring 103.11 metres in length and 18.24 metres in width, shown cross hatched and labelled "Phase 4" on the attached plan.
8. The entire length of Scouler Street measuring 54.19 metres long and 12.46 metres wide, shown cross hatched and labelled "Phase 4" on the attached plan.

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your Public  
notices in  
East End Life

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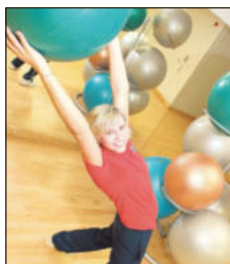
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[WWW.GLL.ORG](http://WWW.GLL.ORG)

### Sport



TWO students on Queen Mary University of London's elite athlete programme – Kate Karwacinski and Abigail Attenborough – have early targets to aim for in 2016. Karate ace Kate has her sights set on international premier league tournaments in Paris and Holland. But her number one priority is the British University championships, where the double gold medallist is aiming for a hat-trick of successes. She also wants to prove herself for England at the senior European and world karate championships, which would cement her place in Team GB's Rio squad. Lacrosse player Abigail is looking to prove herself at international level, starting with making the Welsh team for the home internationals in March. Long term she wants to represent her country at the 2017 world championships.

### Rugby Penna sets tone

**Millwall...40 Pegasus...0**  
MILLWALL clipped the wings of Pegasus Palmerians and went on an awayday points spree.

Two tries from Alessandro Penna and one apiece by Phil Whittaker, Eoin McCabe, Craig Shaw and Andy Matthews, plus a magnificent five conversions by Alban Aubertin, made this a performance to remember.

The win took them to sixth in the table, and spokesman Tom Bradfield said: "This was an excellent performance on a windy day.

"There were some outstanding performances from Andy Matthews and Alban Aubertin setting the platform for a big win, making it three in a row."

Visit [www.millwallrugby.com](http://www.millwallrugby.com) for more information.

### Basketball Cup dream is over

**Leicester Riders...75  
London Lions...65  
(Riders 152-130 on aggregate)**  
LONDON Lions missed out on a place in the British Basketball League final after failing to overturn a first leg defeat.

Both teams struggled to get on the scoreboard until the

third minute when TrayVonn Wright finally netted, but Lions responded and finished the quarter 15-16 ahead.

They stretched this to 18-28 only for Riders to reduce the arrears.

Then with just 40 seconds of the first half remaining and the gap still at ten, Riders stunned the Lions fans to bring it to 34-37 going into half time.

In the second-half scoring continued back and forth.

However, once the Riders got the lead they never relinquished it and the Lions' cup final dream was over for a second season.

### Running Stretch your legs

If you fancy a pre-Christmas workout then head to the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park on Saturday, December 19 for a festive fun run.

There are two races – 2k and 5k – and these are open to all ages and abilities. No previous experience is necessary.

Registration is at 9.30am at the Timber Lodge and the race begins at 10am. Entry costs £5 adults, £3 for children under 12 and two children run free with every adult. There will be goody bags and medals for finishers.

Register on 0300 124 0123.

## Karate kids take on all-comers in double European adventure

### Karate

**POPLAR'S Veras Karate Academy athletes have been doing what they do best – chasing medals. But they have been fighting for gold 713 miles apart.**

Two teams displayed their skills on the tatami (straw-like mat), one competing in Holland the other chasing glory in Hungary.

On November 28, the aptly named Demie Holland, 11, competed in Rotterdam and, although feeling sick, brought home a bronze medal as part of the Midlands England girls 10-11 years team at the Battle of the Teams.

She won her first fight 6-0 against Germany then drew 3-3 with France before losing 2-1 to Holland.

Twenty-four hours later, 713 miles away, Veras Academy squad, with Tower Hamlets young star Tayla O' Brien from Bethnal Green club Uechi Ryu, were in Budapest for the 21th Hungarian Tatami Karate Cup representing England, guided by Veras karate head coach Raphael Veras.

This was definitely the most challenging trip so far for the Veras kids.

They faced elite nationals from Turkey,



Megan Salisbury, Charlotte Thomas and Demie Holland who went to Rotterdam

Belarus, Slovakia, Ukraine, Romania, Finland, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Austria, Greece and Netherlands.

Only three out of a team of 11 reached the podium. Dylan Gibson, six, got two bronze medals in kata and kumite, Luan Veras, 11,

won silver in kumite and senior Sam Mra-bet came away with a bronze in kumite.

Tayla did well, just missing out on the bronze medal. She won two recharge fights but lost the last one.

Visit [www.verasacademy.co.uk](http://www.verasacademy.co.uk)

## Age is no barrier to stick-fighter Shamim

BY PETER FAULKNER

**AT the age of 41, most sportsmen and women are ready to take on less strenuous roles, rather than chase world titles and defy Old Father Time.**

Shamim Rahman (pictured) is a real exception – he is a one-man fighting machine who has just taken on the world and won.

Even though age suggests he should be slowing down, this stick fighting star from Lukin Street, Stepney, has sent ripples through the martial arts world.

In a week when Tyson Fury shocked the world of boxing to become world heavyweight champion, and Andy Murray ended 79 years of hurt to bring the Davis Cup to Britain, Shamim didn't just bring one gold medal back from the world

championships in Poland – he won four. In fact he won an astonishing 11 trophies and 11 certificates.

In winning the medals and the world title, father-of-four Shamim was also crowned best fighter on the day.

What makes his achievement even more remarkable is that he wasn't competing as part of a Great Britain team.

Shamim was so confident in his own ability that he entered the tournament as an individual.

That shocked rivals from around the globe, even more so because few anticipated that a man of 41 could upset the odds.

Shamim, who fights again in March, teaches every Tuesday (6-8pm) at the Brady Arts and Community Centre in Hanbury Street, Stepney.

He can be reached on 07930 943818.







## Riding high for Christmas

Wapping Hockey Club have enjoyed a stellar first half of the season, entering the Christmas break with 11 of their 17 Saturday teams occupying top-three spots in their respective leagues.

### Sport

# Wapping flying high as winter break starts

HOCKEY ROUND-UP  
BY PETER FAULKNER

Wapping men 2s...5  
Chelmsford...3

**WAPPING** Hockey Club played their last games before the Christmas break and ended 2015's action with 11 of their 17 Saturday teams occupying top-three spots in their respective leagues.

The men's second team hosted a Chelmsford side without a point from 11 outings.

The game followed the same pattern as most matches this season featuring the Wapping team, with the home side firmly on top and dominating possession.

Within five minutes they had the lead. A move started by skipper Charley Wright at right back led to a penalty corner, which midfielder Nick McLaren duly converted.

Soon after, their lead was doubled. Player-of-the-match Sam Philpott found Ray Paulson at the top of the D to smash the ball home.

Wapping took their foot off the gas, but Chelmsford failed to take advantage and



Wapping ladies 2s (pictured) were beaten 1-0 at Blackheath while the third team enjoyed a 4-0 win over Romford's first team, Anne Coleman and Liv Cerio getting two goals apiece. The fourth team lost 6-2 at home to Colchester 3s, the 5s team drew 2-2 with Colchester 4s and the 7s team won 2-1 at home to Chelmsford.

within minutes of the second-half starting, they had claimed a third through forward Edward Fry.

However, Wapping then seemed to become complacent and were punished.

A Chelmsford dragflick, clinically executed by ex-

Wapping player Tom Fanger, zipped into the top corner.

Wapping extended the goal gap to three again, as a break-away saw forward Michael Bolle baffle the defence before slotting the ball home.

Back again came Chelmsford and they picked up their

second again through another Fanger dragflick.

Nerves were jangling when Fanger completed his hat-trick from a penalty corner.

But the goal produced a response, with Heye Scheftel burying a reverse-stick strike to keep Wapping in second place.

## Tell the East End

Do you have a sports club you would like to be included in our listings? If so email the details to...

EASTENDLIFE.NEWS@TOWERHAMLETS.GOV.UK

### Soccer round-up Potton upset the league leaders

Great Baddow...0,  
FC Hamlets...1

FC Hamlets upset the unbeaten league leaders to underline their dramatic improvement.

From being a side that struggled to find a win early in the season, they have put together a run of five unbeaten matches and are now sitting fourth in the Essex Olympian League second division table.

Like recent weeks, this was a match of contrasting halves. Hamlets, playing into the wind first up, struggled from the off and Baddow went close in the first ten minutes when a low angled shot was deflected wide off the Hamlets keeper's foot.

The Hamlets back four held their shape, though, limiting Baddow's chances to set pieces, which were comfortably dealt with.

Player-manager Ashley King might have put Hamlets ahead, but failed to get a proper connection when in the clear.

With the wind clearly affecting the game again in the second half, Hamlets continued to press but the match seemed to be petering out to a goal-less draw.

Then, in the 88th minute, a misplaced square pass 30 yards from the Baddow goalkeeper, was pounced on by Hamlets sub Jack Potten who tucked the ball away to take all three points.

### Cows let it slip with seconds to go

Hampton & Richmond...2  
Tower Hamlets WFC...2

TOWER Hamlets women brought their recent run of defeats to an end – and were unlucky not to come away with all three points.

The wide pitch and decent playing surface allowed the Cows to settle into a classy looking passing game, dominating possession and creating a number of openings in the first 30 minutes.

The first goal came on the half-hour mark, with Natalie Keating expertly finding

Nikita Thomas whose first-time shot found the back of the net.

Holly Boatright added a second after a sweeping team move, to seemingly put them in total control.

But an injury just before the break meant Tower Hamlets, who had no subs, came out for the second half with only ten players.

They fought valiantly, until midway through the half when Hampton scored a set piece.

With the clock ticking down, the referee indicated 60 seconds left. Two minutes later Hampton found the back of the net for the equaliser.

■ The reserves continued their unbeaten run with a 3-1 home win over Hampstead Reserves with goals from Hannah Griffiths, player of the match Leah Oakley and Judith Stichtenoth.

### Four-point haul

Sporting Bengal...1  
Greenhouse Sports...0

SPORTING Bengal had a reasonable return from two games in quick succession.

At the weekend they hosted Greenhouse Sports at Mile End Stadium and a single goal from Yacine gave them victory to maintain their mid-table spot.

A few days earlier in a mid-week clash, they established a two-goal lead at Southend Manor, finished the game with nine men and allowed the hosts to battle back for a 2-2 draw.

Abdisamad Mohamed and Yaccine Teladjati gave them a half-time cushion, but Manor struck back after the break through Mike Sammet and Isaac Aubyn.

### Cookey seals it

London Bari...2  
Tower Hamlets FC...0

JUST one point separated the sides at the start, but Bari struck on 15 minutes when Junior Decker evaded his marker.

The conditions were hampering Hamlets although first Sunday Wasiu then Nasser Bello went close to equalising.

Bari were on top in the second half and, after going close several times, Cookey made it 2-0, 15 minutes from time.

# Stylish East go on a goal spree

### Hockey

East London ladies 2s...9  
Colchester 3s...1

**EAST** London turned on the style at Redbridge Sports Centre in one of their biggest wins of the season.

They were in the zone from the off and never gave their opponents a chance.

Great link play from the backs kept Colchester at bay and Chloe Vaughan almost made it a one-woman performance with four goals while Kate Hendry, playing with a new stick, scored two.

They were supported by Emma Clare who

scored with a fine strike from the edge of the circle and Kerry Jacks and Samantha Blundell joining in the goal fest.

West Herts men 2s...2  
East London 1s...0

EAST London travelled to Hertford hoping to repeat their home victory against West Herts at the start of the season.

However, they were unable to keep possession or force their style on the home side, and West Herts scored twice from counter attacks in the first half.

East London controlled possession after the break, but could not create any real chances for their forwards.

■ **Other highlights:** The men's second team had six different scorers in their 6-1 win over Thurrock while Belinda Le Mesurier netted a hat-trick for the ladies' 4s.

■ **Men's results:** East London men 2s...6, Thurrock 1s...1; East London 3s...2, Maldon 1s...2; East London 4s...4, Brentwood 2s...7; East London 5s...1, Colchester 3s...0; East London 6s...0, Thurrock 2s...1; East London 7s...0, Phoenix Academy...0; East London 8s...1, Chelmsford 6s...0.

■ **Women's results:** East London ladies 1s...1, Burnt Ash 1s...1; East London 3s...7, Southend 2s...1; East London 4s...5, Harlow 2s...0; East London 6s...0, Upminster 5s...1; East London 7s...4, Waltham Forest 5s...1.





## More inside

For stories on hockey, football, karate and stick fighting...

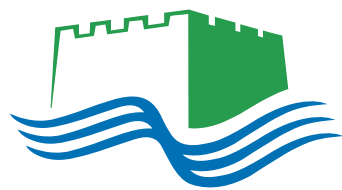
SEE PAGES 30 & 31



## Back from the brink

Ten months ago, Andy Lee was one fight away from retirement. But since then he has overcome the previously unbeaten Matt Korobov to become WBO world middleweight champion.

SEE BELOW



TOWER HAMLETS

NEWS FROM TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL AND YOUR COMMUNITY

# Lee set for date with destiny

BY PETER FAULKNER

## ANDY Lee and Billy Joe Saunders are set to collide in a Christmas showdown.

The pair's long-awaited clash will happen on Frank Warren's Manchester Arena show this Saturday, December 19.

After self-styled Gypsy King Tyson Fury's sensational world heavyweight title victory over Wladimir Klitschko, these two men from the traveller community promise to stage another explosive night.

For 30-year-old Lee it marks the culmination of a real-life Rocky story, and a remarkable turnaround in a career which was on the brink of failure.

Ten months ago, trainer Andy Booth sat him down before his fight with John Jackson and warned Lee that defeat would spell the end of his career.

Not only did the man from Bow win in style, he then went on to Las Vegas to destroy the previously unbeaten Russian



Billy Joe Saunders

Matt Korobov, and a new WBO middleweight champion of the world was crowned.

Lee was brought up on a traveller site in Bow, before moving back to his roots in Limerick.

He boxed at Bethnal Green's Repton Club from the age of eight and signed his first pro contract with American legend Manny Steward in 2005.

Following Steward's death in 2012, Lee returned to London, where he joined up with

English trainer Adam Booth.

It was with Booth that he won the WBO belt in 2014, the first member of any traveller community to win a world title. He has lost just two of his 37 fights.

Saunders, from Hatfield, is tutored by east London's top trainer, Jimmy Tibbs.

A former European champion, he is unbeaten in 22 fights, and confident he can end Lee's reign at the top.

"Andy Lee has been in the ring with bigger punchers than me, but not smarter, clever ones. None of them," said Saunders.

"I need that big breakout performance and I know the best time to show it is now."

Saunders suspects that the culture of both fighters could play a big part in the outcome.

"Me and Andy are both from a traveller background," Saunders added.

"So I'm sure that if my gameplan doesn't come off, or his doesn't, we're both going to have to take a chance."



Andy Lee shows off his WBO belt

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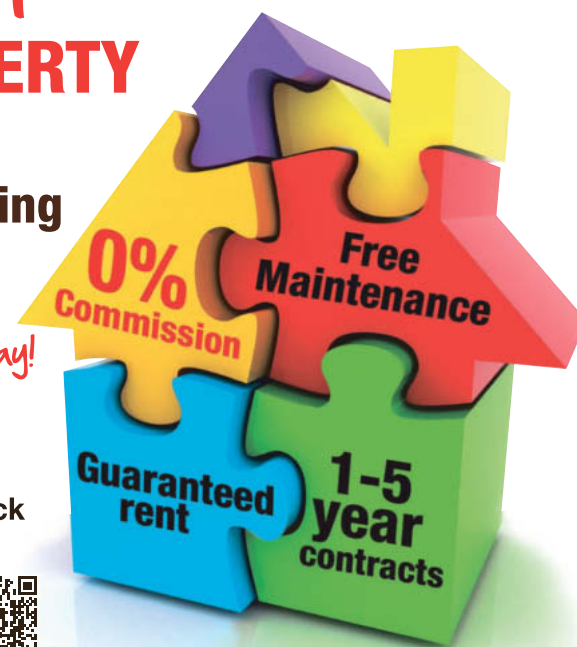
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